

# ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 742.—VOL. XIV.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1869.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED 4D.

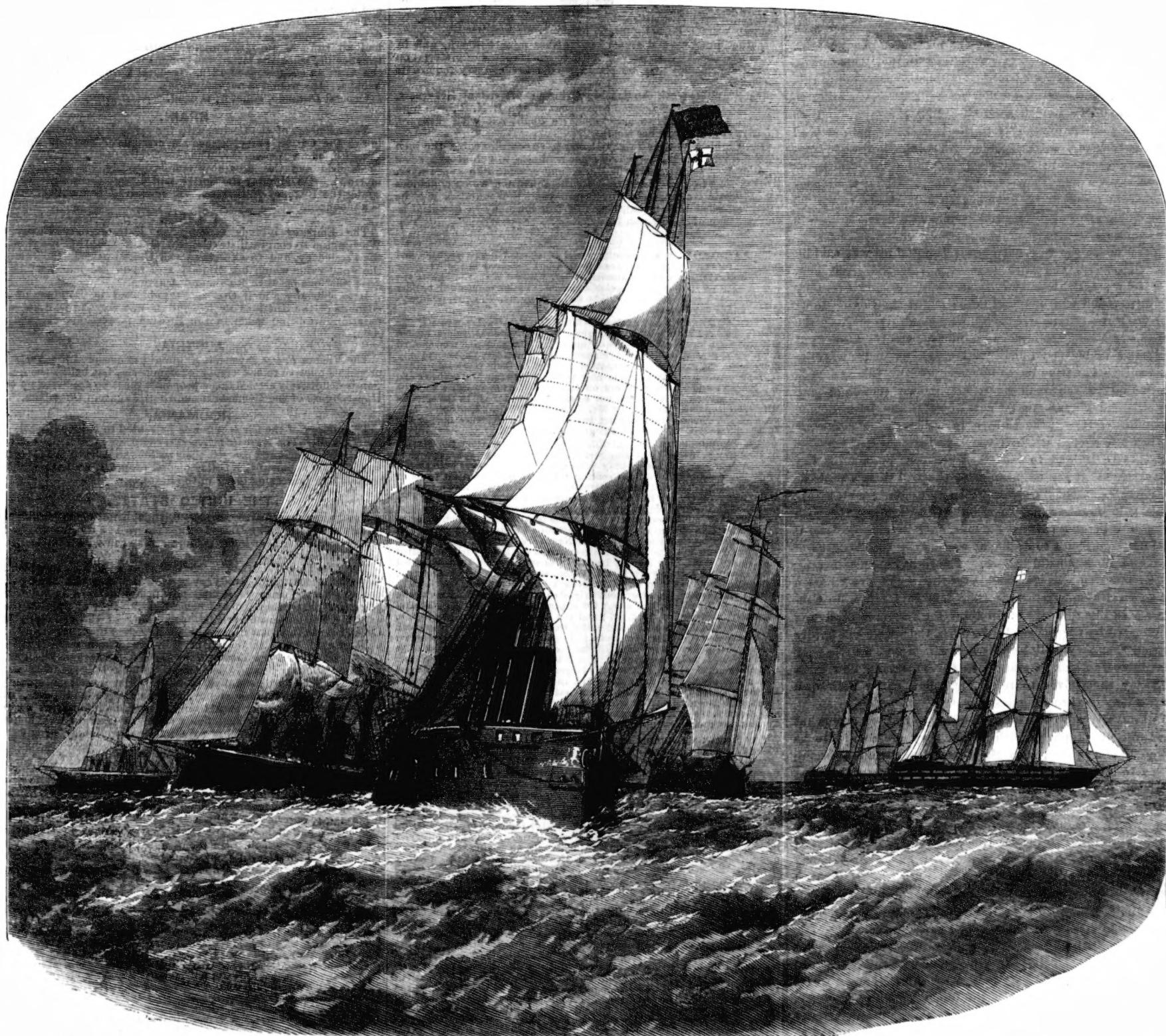
## THE IRISH CHURCH AND HER CHAMPIONS.

THE Irish Church Abolition Bill, having passed its final stage in the Commons, has made its advent in the House of Lords. How the measure will fare there is still a matter of speculation, but is scarcely deserving of much discussion, because it is certain that their Lordships must pass the bill sooner or later; and, for the sake of their own dignity and the interests of the Irish Church, it would be well that they should pass it soon rather than later. It may be conceded that a majority of the Peers do not like the measure; but coming to them, as it does, with the emphatic and repeatedly-expressed approval of the Commons' House, the Lords must accept it all the same, as they have had to do other bills, which, perhaps, they liked still less. Never before did their Lordships enter upon the consi-

deration of a great measure which came before them with the popular imprimatur so decidedly impressed upon it. An overwhelming majority of the House of Commons was returned specially to accomplish this work of disestablishing and disendowing the Irish Church; and that majority has stuck to the task assigned to it by the people with a steadiness and unanimity probably unparalleled in Parliamentary history. In view of these facts, it is not likely that the House of Lords, which is now, as Mr. Gladstone said on Monday night, face to face with the nation on this great question, will venture to thwart the nation's will, expressed as that will has been in a fashion so clear and unmistakable.

Should their Lordships prove recalcitrant, however, we may be sure that the emergency will be met in a different way than by dissolving Parliament, as some shallow people seem

to expect. To dissolve would be merely punishing the virtuous in order to be avenged of the wicked; and we daresay the peers, who do not require to go to their constituents and are exempt from the turmoil and expense of election, would bear the operation with as much equanimity as did the famous absentee Irish landlord the shooting of his agent, and who told his tenantry that if they thought to frighten him, in London, by killing his servants in Tipperary, they were very greatly mistaken. The present Government, we may be assured, will neither tamely submit to defeat by the Lords nor dissolve Parliament. They will, no doubt, go another way to work; and possibly the operation of Earl Russell's Life Peerages Bill may be anticipated in a way and to an extent little to the taste of those who wish Peerages to remain the exclusive privilege of the comparatively limited



HECTOR.

BLACK PRINCE.

AGINCOURT.

VALIANT.

ST. GEORGE.

DUNCAN.

THE EXPERIMENTAL SQUADRON, MANNED BY THE NAVAL RESERVE, UNDER EXERCISE.



circle to which they are now confined. But it would be premature to discuss ulterior measures at present; for we believe noble Lords will have the good sense to put their individual and class predilections on one side and bow to the decision of the nation.

Though the debate on the third reading of the bill in the House of Commons was a rather tame affair—as, indeed, how could it be otherwise?—there were some things said that merit a word of comment. Lord Elcho is neither a political sage nor a great power in the land, and his mere opinions, therefore, are scarcely worthy of notice; but a deliberate misstatement of facts calls for correction. The Government, said Lord Elcho, had been enabled to carry the Irish Church Abolition Bill through the House of Commons by the votes of Scotch and Irish members, and in opposition to the mind of the people of England, as exhibited by their representatives. Now, we unhesitatingly characterise this as a deliberate misstatement of facts; for Lord Elcho knows as well as we do that the Irish and Scotch vote could not have carried the bill against the English vote. Ireland and Scotland returned at the late election 119 members classed as Liberals and 46 classed as Conservatives—that is, a majority of 80 Liberals over Conservatives; a number which, even if all voted as classed, is less than the smallest majority in favour of the measure at any one of its stages. Further, as the Irish and Scottish members combined only number in all 165 votes, whereas the bill on its third reading was supported by 361, it follows that at least 197 English members must have been in the majority even had the whole of the Irish and Scotch representatives been to a man in favour of the measure. In point of fact, however, there must have voted for Government 281 English members, in addition to the Irish and Scottish Liberal 80, in order to make up the majority of 361 for the third reading; in other words, there were more English members in favour of the bill than there were English, Irish, and Scotch against it. And yet Lord Elcho—a member of the order that assumes to represent honour, and therefore truthfulness, par excellence!—has the effrontery to assert that the bill has been passed by virtue of the Irish and Scotch vote alone!

Mr. Adderley, again, was amusingly lachrymose and obtuse—as is not uncommonly the right hon. gentleman's wont—when he complained that the Liberal members had voted all along in too out-and-out a way in accordance with the pledges they had given at the hustings. They might, he thought, have taken a few liberties with their consciences, have done a little promise-breaking, have consented to risk going to hades for an eternal moment or so, in order to make the Tory defeat somewhat less crushing, and to preserve a little more pelf to the Irish episcopal parsons! Thank you, Mr. Adderley, for your ingenious—and disinterested—counsel; but when would-be sanctimonious Conservatives and their clerical clients stretch their consciences in order to be generous to antagonists, it will be time enough for merely mundane-spirited Liberals to imitate the example.

But perhaps the most outrageous thing of all was said by Mr. Disraeli. The Irish peasantry, said the right hon. gentleman, shoot their landlords in order to show that they are dissatisfied with the land laws; and if they are desirous of having the Church abolished, why don't they shoot the parsons? There is a nice suggestion for you! "Don't put the man under the pump, whatever you do!" was the suggestive-dissuasive bit of advice given by the malicious individual to the mob on a well-known occasion; and Mr. Disraeli plays a similar part towards the Irish Roman Catholics. It was the fashion in Conservative circles, a little while ago, to attribute the so-called revival of agrarian outrages in Ireland to the effect produced by Mr. Bright's declaration that the cultivators of the soil there should be to a greater extent its owners than at present; and, by the same rule of reasoning, should the Lords reject the Irish Church Bill, and parsons be murdered in consequence, it will not be difficult to decide at whose door the shedding of reverend blood should be laid. The right hon. member for Bucks must be held responsible for the life of every parson killed in Ireland from this time forward! How do Conservatives like this way of applying the system of reasoning enunciated by themselves? We hope, though we can hardly expect, that they will be a little less rash and a little more charitable in their utterances in future, seeing how open they lay themselves to retort, and how easily their own tactics may be turned against them.

Conservatives would do well, also, to restrain somewhat the furor of prophecy with which they are so apt to be afflicted. The party, from Mr. Disraeli to the most obscure of his followers, are, with one accord, predicting the most dire evils from the passing of this same Irish Church Bill, as they and their predecessors predicted like results from every great measure that has passed the Legislature for the last half century at least, oblivious of the fact, that every one of those predictions has been falsified by experience. Verily, Conservatives are like Bourbons: they learn nothing and they unlearn nothing, whatever teaching they may undergo. Conservatives and Dr. Cumming seem equally slaves to this spirit of prophecy; they cannot forbear its utterances, however often they may prove to be mistaken. There is this difference, however, between the Scottish divine and Tory politicians—in the Doctor's case dabbling in prophecy, or the interpretation of prophecy, is profitable, for his books sell whether his predictions prove true or false; but it cannot be to the credit, much less to the advantage, of statesmen to have their assertions proved

wrong year after year, or for journalists to have theirs shown to be fallacious week after week, and day after day. Surely repeated experiences might teach even the "stupid party" a little caution in prophesying, if a limited modicum of wisdom be beyond their capacity. If they cannot be wise, they might at least learn to be moderate in folly.

#### CRUISE OF THE ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE FLEET.

THE Lords of the Admiralty have just completed their cruise with the Coastguard and Royal Naval Reserve Fleet. Their Lordships hoisted their flag on board the Agincourt (Admiral Key), at Portland, on the 14th ult. The fleet consisted of the following vessels:—

IRONCLADS.			
Agincourt .. ..	26 guns, 6621 tons, 1550 horse power.		
Black Prince .. ..	41 .. 6109 .. 1250		
Hector .. ..	20 .. 4089 .. 800		
Valliant .. ..	24 .. 4063 .. 800		
WOODEN SHIPS.			
Duncan .. ..	81 guns, 2727 tons, 800 horse power.		
Donegal .. ..	81 .. 3245 .. 800		
Trafalgar .. ..	60 .. 2900 .. 500		
Royal George .. ..	72 .. 2616 .. 400		
St. George .. ..	72 .. 2864 .. 500		
Mersey (frigate) .. ..	36 .. 3728 .. 1000		
Cadmus (corvette) .. ..	21 .. 1466 .. 400		
Scylla .. ..	21 .. 1467 .. 400		

These were divided into starboard and port divisions, under the commands respectively of Admiral Key (senior officer) and Admiral G. H. Hornby, the vessels in the respective divisions being—

STARBOARD DIVISION.		PORT DIVISION.	
Agincourt (flag)	1st Subdivision.	Duncan (flag)	1st Subdivision.
Black Prince		Trafalgar	
Hector		Royal George	
Valliant		St. George	
Mersey	2nd Subdivision.	Donegal	2nd Subdivision.
Cadmus		Scylla	

The Scylla and Cadmus, manned by their own crews, were about sailing to join the flying squadron, when their Lordships, arriving at Portland, attached them to the fleet. The remainder of the vessels were manned by Coastguard and Naval Reserve men, a proportion of from 170 to 220 of the latter being allotted to each ship. About 2000 men of the Royal Naval Reserve joined the fleet altogether. On the 15th ult. the fleet left Portland and proceeded down Channel to a spot known as Admiralty Patch (from being the cruising-ground of the Channel squadron), about seventy miles west of the Scilly Isles. Here, for some days, various manoeuvres and evolutions were performed, the R. N. R. giving satisfaction to the officers in charge by their general intelligence and the alacrity displayed in "handling ship."

Our illustration shows the fleet performing, perhaps, the most interesting of these movements—viz., "forming column of subdivisions in line ahead"—the second subdivision of each column forming up abreast of its first subdivision, thus:—

Port Column.		Starboard Column.	
2nd Subdivision.	1st Subdivision.	2nd Subdivision.	1st Subdivision.
St. George.	Duncan.	Valliant.	Agincourt.
Donegal.	Trafalgar.	Mersey.	Black Prince.
Scylla.	Royal George.	Cadmus.	Hector.

Target practice and steam tactics were gone through, and in these also the R. N. R. proved itself to be composed of material on which dependence may be placed should the country require its services.

On Thursday week the flagship Agincourt arrived at Sheerness, having on board the London contingent of the R. N. R., who were dismissed from duty to anticipate, we doubt not with pleasure, their next cruise "under the flag."

Mr. Childers and Sir Sidney Dacres have complimented the men of the Royal Naval Reserve on their readiness to volunteer for the late cruise, their order, efficiency, and seaman-like appearance. This is done in a circular issued to the squadron, which concludes by expressing a hope that in future years opportunities may be again afforded for the exhibition of this harmony so essential to the strength of the British Navy.

THE AMBASSADOR, a composite vessel of about 750 tons register, and intended for the China trade, was launched last Saturday at the Lavender Dock, Rotherhithe, in the occupation of Mr. William Waller. She is the fourth ship of similar construction built by the same enterprising builder within the last four years, and will be managed by Mr. W. Lund, of Jewry-street, one of the owners.

"THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN."—When Mr. Tom Taylor wrote "The Ticket-of-Leave Man," he sold the right of representation to Messrs. Emden and Robson, who were then lessees of the Olympic Theatre, and who entered the piece at Stationers' Hall as their property, though Mr. Taylor had only given them the right of representation as long as their leasehold of the Olympic continued. An action is now pending between Mr. Webster and Mr. Emden; and a motion calling on Mr. Emden to show cause why the entry at Stationers' Hall should not be expunged was made in the Queen's Bench, on Monday morning, on Mr. Webster's behalf. The object is to prevent Mr. Emden from putting in the entry as evidence during the approaching trial. A rule nisi was granted.

THE EXODUS FROM LIVERPOOL.—The emigration from the Mersey still continues, without the slightest abatement in numbers. The emigration agents were never so busy before, nor has there ever been such a continuous stream of foreigners coming into Liverpool from all parts of the Continent. The number of Germans, Hollanders, and Swedes which are to be seen every day in Liverpool is something marvellous, and in connection with this it is remarkable that the French emigrants are very few. This, however, can be accounted for from the fact that the French going to America, unlike the majority of the German emigrants, take passage in the steamers leaving Havre direct for New York. During the past week there sailed no less than eight steamers from the Mersey for the United States and Canada. On Tuesday last the Cunard steamer Palmyra sailed from Liverpool for New York, via Boston, with 600 steerage passengers. On Wednesday the Idaho sailed for New York with 876 passengers. The Ottawa and the Nestorian carry out to Quebec and Montreal 866 passengers. The City of Baltimore had about 798 steerage passengers; the National Company's steamer Denmark, 927; and the Erin, 1242 steerage passengers, for New York. The Scotia, which sailed from Liverpool on Saturday, took out no steerage passengers, but had a full complement of saloon passengers. The vessels connected with the National Steamship Company appear to be most favoured by the emigrants. The National steamer Erin, which left Liverpool on Friday last, took out the largest number of steerage passengers which has ever sailed from Liverpool in either sailing-ship or steamer. During the week there sailed several sailing-ships for New York, with about 2000 passengers. The whole number of passengers, including cabin and steerage, which left Liverpool for the United States and Canada during the past week was close upon 7500 souls.

THE ROMAN CATHOLICS AND INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.—Pope Pius IX., feeling profoundly the wide-spread evils and crushing burdens imposed upon the nations of Christendom by their gigantic armaments, intends, it is announced, to lay before the approaching Ecumenical Council at Rome a proposal for the general adoption of international arbitration, in lieu of war, and for the establishment, by a High Court of Nations, of a definite code of international law, instead of the vague and unconnected maxims, from Vattel and other private sources, which at present constitute the only approximation to the urgently-needed influence of a regulating system of rules and precedents to be universally recognised as an authority throughout Christendom. An interesting article, approving of the Pope's project, appears in the Catholic magazine entitled the Month. The writer clearly sets forth the necessity for the extension of definite laws to the great community of nations. In former ages, when the means and needs of intercommunication were but few, no necessity existed for a mutual code. But now, by means of steam and telegraphs, all countries of the world are so closely and continuously brought into mutual relationships and intercourse that an international policy requires to be speedily and definitely arranged. The writer adds:—"That such international policy is yet comparatively in its infancy few, as we believe, would be inclined to dispute. We have but to turn to the difficulties which have been endangering for some time those cordial relations that should by right exist between this country and the United States to be assured of the truth of the assertion. In fact, it would hardly be too much to say that, with the exception of maritime intercommunication, the mutual intercourse of Governments is guided by custom and the dicta of protocols or conferences, more than by any definite code of laws. But, as law is the foundation of security and true liberty, so the absence of law is the occasion of danger and of ungoverned license, not only to an individual people, but to the great family of nations."

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

The Emperor, it is said, does not feel the necessity of relieving the country from the great evil of uncertainty. The opinion extensively prevails that the meeting of Parliament will be postponed till the latest legal period, and so the disclosures of electoral frauds, which the verification of powers must bring out, will be postponed, and the elections consequent upon the "options" deferred for at least a year. This course would be, it is alleged, to proclaim that the Government, whose boast it is that it has been built up by universal suffrage, shrinks from facing the latest demonstration of the popular voice. The whole matter will, of course, be reconsidered when the result of the ballotes of Sunday shall be known; and, as Ministers are notoriously divided in opinion, it is, of course, possible that the Emperor may cut the Gordian knot. It is, however, rather ominous that his most accredited writer, Clement Duvernois, should use the very sinister phrase, pronounced by the Emperor himself some days before the coup-d'état—namely, that it was necessary to make the "hand" of the elect of Dec. 10 felt more decidedly in the conduct of affairs. No Government manifesto is now looked for until June 25, when the Emperor will appear at an agricultural show at Beauvais, and make a speech.

The election disturbances that were reported to have taken place at Amiens, Lille, and Calais turn out to have been very small matters, falling far short of many of our own election rows. There were several electoral meetings held in Paris last Saturday, but they were conducted in the most orderly manner.

The Mayor of one of the communes in the department of the Gironde has resigned, although he had held his post for twelve years, and had just been decorated by the Government. The reason he alleges for taking this step is that the instructions sent to him from the Prefect for the purpose of ensuring the return of the official candidate were of such a nature that to carry them out would have been incompatible with his dignity as "a man, a citizen, and a public functionary."

A banquet has been given in Paris to General Dix, late United States Minister at the French Court. In reply to the toast of his health, General Dix said few intelligent persons doubted that the territory of the United States would be still further enlarged; but it would be, as in the past, by causes beyond the influence of the country. He trusted that America would continue to stand aloof from European rivalries and conflicts, and advance on her course in a spirit of enlightenment, of peace, and of fraternity.

The iron-clad corvette Belliqueuse has returned from a voyage round the world. This is the first vessel of this description which has performed so long a voyage. The Belliqueuse has sustained no injury.

### ITALY.

The three financial conventions presented to the Italian Chamber of Deputies by Count Cambray Digny have been rejected by the Committee of the Chamber. A fresh Ministerial crisis is considered probable in consequence of this rejection. The new Minister of Agriculture, Signor Minghetti, has been defeated in his candidature for Bologna by his democratic opponent, Signor Cereiri. The majority of the latter was, however, only forty-seven, and a second balloting will be necessary.

The perpetrators of the assassination at Leghorn have been discovered. Several persons are implicated. It appears that they had all suffered an ignominious beating by order of General Crenneville, when the latter was Commandant of the town during the Austrian occupation of 1849. General Crenneville has left for Vienna. His wound is not dangerous. General Durando, Senator, is dead.

### SPAIN.

The members of the Cortes, with the exception of those belonging to the Carlist party, signed the draught of the new Spanish Constitution on Wednesday. The Constitution will be promulgated in Madrid and the provinces simultaneously, on Sunday (tomorrow). On Monday the Cortes will discuss the proposition to confer the Regency on Serrano. The death of General O'Donnell is announced.

### RUSSIA.

The Emperor intends sending an Extraordinary Envoy to Washington to congratulate General Grant upon his election to the Presidency, and to express to the United States Government the great value which his Majesty sets upon the maintenance of good relations between Russia and America.

It is officially stated that news published in Bombay of an advance of the Russians in Kokand is untrue. No warlike preparations are being made in the Russian possessions of Central Asia.

### AUSTRIA.

The Vienna Presse says that England has accepted the Austrian proposals relative to the treaty of commerce, but before the question is definitively settled these proposals must be approved by the Upper House of the Reichsrath and the Hungarian Chambers.

### ROUMANIA.

The address of the Chambers was presented to Prince Charles on the 28th ult. The representative body express therein their devotion to the Prince, and promise their zealous support to the Government, which is pursuing a policy of real progress, while upholding the law and preserving order in the State.

### THE UNITED STATES.

The Indian war has recommenced, though not on so formidable a scale as before. The United States troops and the Indians have had an encounter near Fort Griffin, in Texas, in which the Indians have lost fourteen men.

The New York Times of the 22nd ult. has an article in which it says that a most mischievous cry re-echoed in America among the demagogues for many years, and now firmly believed in by many persons, is that "England will never fight." It is of opinion that even Mr. Sumner must have felt something of the contempt for Great Britain this view inspires, when he called upon her to humbly apologise for the declaration of belligerency and pay his bill of costs. The New York Times thinks that no greater mistake could be made about England than this. "Pluck is a tradition with every Englishman personally," it adds, "and a national quality. Much as England loves money, and commerce and peace, she would see every trading packet burned, her manufacturers swept into the sea, and her rich fields made as Georgia was behind Sherman, rather than submit to a national indignity, or give up what she considers her just right."

### PARAGUAY.

The last Brazilian and River Plate mails bring little or no news of any change in the position of affairs in Paraguay. Lopez, according to one account, continued to occupy the same position; according to another, he had withdrawn more into the interior with the women and children. His strength was variously estimated at from 6000 to 8500 men. He seems able to continue his policy of confining his enemies to their tents by cavalry raids. Extensive preparations for a new campaign were being made in the allied army.

DEATH OF SIR ROBERT CLIFTON, M.P.—Sir R. Clifton, the senior member for Nottingham, died at three o'clock on Sunday morning, at his residence, Clifton Hall, near Nottingham. The hon. Baronet was attacked nearly three weeks ago with typhoid fever, and has gradually sunk. The deceased Baronet was the only son of the late Sir Granville Jukes Clifton. After the death of his uncle, General Sir Arthur Clifton, the estate of Barton came into his possession, but this did not materially increase his income. Sir Robert Clifton successfully contested Nottingham, in 1861, against the Whig party, who adopted Lord Lincoln (the present Duke of Newcastle) as their candidate; and again in 1865, but he was afterwards unseated for intimidation. He was, however, once more successful in 1868, being at the head of the poll. The hon. Baronet was very popular with the working classes of Nottingham, by whom he will be greatly regretted. Sir Robert leaves a widow, but no children. The hon. Baronet was in his forty-third year.



## MR. GOLDWIN SMITH IN REPLY TO MR. SUMNER.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH delivered an address at Ithaca in reply to Mr. Sumner, on the 19th ult., which fills nearly four columns of the New York papers. Mr. Smith introduced himself as an Englishman loyal to England—not to the England of the aristocracy, but to the England of the people. The purport of his speech was to deprecate hostility between the two countries. He frankly admitted that many Englishmen had been wrong in their conduct towards America, but he urged that he had won the right to speak freely, and to say that America, and Mr. Sumner in particular, had judged England too harshly. There were parties on both sides who had an interest in war. In England it was the Tories, to whom a rupture with America would be political salvation. "John Bright could not and would not remain in office to carry on a war against this country. He and his friends who are now in the Government would go out. The Tories would come into power, and wield all the resources of England and the united nation in a death-struggle with American democracy." There were, Mr. Smith said, undoubtedly antipathies to England entertained in America; and one cause of these antipathies was that England was believed to be an aggressive power. Mr. Smith disputed this:—

We have all renounced territorial aggrandisement; England is as unaggressive as her neighbours; indeed, I believe it may be affirmed with truth that she has taken the lead in a policy of moderation. She voluntarily ceded the Ionian Islands, the other great Powers who had put them into her hands being, as it was understood, not very favourable to the cession; and I doubt whether you will find another instance of the same thing in history. She is thinking of ceding even that which is at once the great trophy and the talisman of her empire—the rock of Gibraltar; and this, I believe, not merely from a sense of its diminished value, but from right feeling and a sincere desire to be on friendly terms with Spain. The conquest of Abyssinia for the purpose of liberating the captives was followed by its instant evacuation. We were charged the other day by a speaker at a Cretan meeting with thwarting the emancipation of Crete by Russia because we had designs on Egypt. Both Egypt and Crete were offered us by the late Emperor of Russia as the price of our connivance at his designs, and we not only refused the offer, but quarrelled with him for having made it.

The annexation of Canada was, Mr. Smith contended, a matter for the Canadians themselves to decide. England left them free to separate and to annex themselves if they pleased. His own opinion was in favour of England giving up her American colonies as soon as she could; but "as to ceding them or any of her citizens, by way of compensation for her own liabilities, it is a thought which honour would forbid her for a moment to entertain;" and if the Canadians were prematurely forced into the Union, they would carry disaffection into its vitals.

After observing that the idea of a crusade for Irish independence was Quixotic and that there was no hope that Ireland would ever be an independent, self-governed country, Mr. Smith came to the present quarrel between England and the United States. He denied that Englishmen sympathised with slavery; and if during the war they did not support the North, it was because they did not see—and Mr. Seward was to blame for that—that the cause of the North was the cause of abolition. He referred to the fact that, rather than take part against the North, the artisans of England, with their wives and families, faced starvation; "and let me say," he added, "that all parties in England—Southerners, as well as Northerners—came forward at once, and with free hands, to support the workmen in the distress which they endured for conscience sake."

Having defended the recognition of the South, Mr. Smith showed how absurd it was to imagine that the men who governed England at the time of the war had any sympathy with slavery:—

The two names in the list best known here are perhaps that of Mr. Gladstone, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the most powerful member of the Government after Lord Palmerston, and that of the Duke of Newcastle, who was Secretary of State for the Colonies, and came here with the Prince of Wales. Mr. Gladstone is now the chosen ruler of the people. For the people, to lighten the burdens of the people, to improve the lot of the people, to give the people political rights, he has taken up, held, and laid down power. Labour knows his name, and blesses it when it eats its hard-earned bread. European liberty knows his name. Ask any Italian patriot whether Mr. Gladstone could be a conspirator against freedom. He said publicly in an unguarded moment what the most ardent friends of the Union were saying to each other in private, that Jeff. Davis had succeeded in making the South a nation. And for this single inconsiderate word he has since apologised to you with all the warmth and frankness of his nature.

On the subject of arbitration, Mr. Smith said:—

Honour knows no limit to concession but that of justice. My only desire as an Englishman is, that England may pay to the uttermost farthing any debt which upon any sane theory she can have incurred, and thus stand clear before the world and in the hearts of her own people. I trust, also, that if it is made to appear before an impartial tribunal that our Government has failed, however unintentionally, in the performance of any of its international duties to a friendly Power the payment of damages will be accompanied with a full acknowledgment of the error. But if Mr. Sumner means to thrust arbitration aside—if he means to insist upon being judge in his own cause, on pronouncing us guilty in any manner which his inflated fancy can suggest, and finding and humiliating us at his discretion—we shall appeal with confidence to the reason and moral sense of the civilised world.

**CO-OPERATIVE CONFERENCE.**—A conference representing many co-operative societies met on Monday at the Society of Arts—Mr. T. Hughes, M.P., in the chair. The hon. member for Frome, in his opening address, reviewed the progress of co-operation, and reminded his hearers that the principal object of the congress was to ascertain whether the movement could not be turned into a channel in which the results would realise the expectations and hopes of its promoters. He indicated the more pressing wants of the present system, and expressed his opinion that there would not be much difficulty in obtaining such alterations of the law as might be required. The conference sat three days.

**NOVEL CLAIM FOR DAMAGES.**—Not a hundred miles from Llandysall, Cardiganshire, a young man, disappointed in a love affair, sent a bill containing following items to his "deceitful love" after she had been wedded to another:—L—, Nov. 4, 1868.—Mrs. —, late Miss —, to Mr. —. To 53 glasses of wine at different fairs and markets, 13s. 3d.; to 1 pair of shoes, and healing another pair that I wore out in going and coming from —, 4s. 6d.; for Dr.'s bill for curing a cough, caught by waiting under your window on a wet night, £9 9s. 6d.; to postage, &c., 1s. 11d.; to deceiving me and throwing me out of a partner for life, £100; to enticing me to come to — 99 times, at 2s. 6d. each time, £12; to 12 days lost in your company, £4 7s. 6d.—£128 14s. 9d.—*Shrewsbury Free Press.*

**ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE BOAT INSTITUTION.**—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, £6 14s. were voted to pay the expenses of the Institution's life-boat Civil Service, stationed at Wexford, Ireland, in going off in a N.E. gale and very heavy sea, and saving four men from the schooner *Handy*, of Wexford, which had parted from her anchors and gone ashore in South Bay, Wexford, on the 8th ult. Rewards were also ordered to be given to the crews of the life-boats of the society stationed at Cahore, Wexford, Carnsore, and New Romney, for various services during the past month. The thanks of the institution, inscribed on vellum, and £1 were ordered to be presented to James Gale, coxswain of the *Buckie* life-boat, and £2 to F. Kerr, chief boatman of Coastguard, for their services at that place in connection with the life-boat when she put off to the assistance of some fishing-boats which were in distress, in stormy weather, off *Buckie*, and saved forty-five lives. A reward of £2 was also granted to two men and a woman for going off and saving a woman and her son from a boat which was overladen with seaweed, and which sunk off Whiddy Island, in the county of Cork, on March 29. The woman died from exhaustion soon after she was brought ashore. Two other persons had fallen overboard and perished previous to the arrival of the boat. Various other rewards were also granted for saving life from different wrecks. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thornton West had presented £700 to the institution to defray the entire cost of the life-boat establishment to be formed at Port Isaac, on the Cornish coast, and the first year's expenditure of the station. The Ancient Order of Foresters had also given the society £640 for the "Foresters' No. 2" life-boat establishment. Legacies to the amount of £300 and £100 respectively had been bequeathed to the society by the late James Sturtin, Esq., of High Holborn, and the late Miss Lucretia Tuckett, of O-naburg-street. A friend to the Nottingham branch of the institution had given it £100. Various estimates, to the amount of £468, for constructing life-boat houses and for other works at different life-boat stations, were accepted. The whole fleet of life-boats of the institution, now numbering upwards of 200 boats, was ordered to be painted, as usual, with the composition paint of Messrs. Peacock and Buchanan, of Southampton. Payments amounting to £1352 were made on various life-boat establishments. A report was read from Captain D. Robertson, R.N., the assistant inspector of life-boats, on his recent visit to life-boat stations on the Irish coast. Captain Robertson stated that he had everywhere found the boats in admirable order.

## EARLY RACING.

ONE of the most numerous-attended meetings of the Jockey Club for some years was held last Saturday evening at the offices of Messrs. Weatherby, in Old Burlington-street, to discuss important resolutions proposed by Sir Joseph Hawley as to the running of two-year-olds, which have excited deep interest both without as well as within the pale of the racing world. There were present, among others, the Dukes of Beaufort, Richmond, Rutland, Montrose, and St. Albans; Prince Soltykoff; the Marquis of Ailesbury; the Earls of Stamford, Wilton, Durham, Fitzwilliam, Strathford, Bradford, Annesley, Zetland; Lords Calthorpe, Colville, George Manners, H. Lennox; Count Batthyany, Hon. Admiral Rous, Sir F. Johnstone, Sir Joseph Hawley, Sir W. Wynn, Hon. G. W. Fitzwilliam, Baron M. Rothschild, Mr. Chaplin, Colonel Astley, Colonel Pearson, Mr. Payne, Mr. Stirling Crawford, Hon. Colonel Forester, Mr. Gerard Sturt, Captain Lane, Mr. Barne, Mr. Caledon Alexander, &c. Sir Joseph Hawley moved the first resolution—"That no two-year-olds shall run earlier in the year than July 1"—in a very able and temperate speech, in which he reiterated many of the arguments that have already appeared in its favour, and read an important letter from Lord Derby regretting his inability to attend and expressing a strong opinion as to the advisability of adopting the French rule of prohibiting two-year-olds racing before Aug. 1. Mr. Chaplin seconded the motion; and, after an amendment had been proposed by Lord George Manners (but which, from want of proper notice of motion, fell to the ground), Admiral Rous rose and made a powerful and energetic speech against the resolution. As in the case of Sir Joseph Hawley's, it was in some sort a repetition of the gallant Admiral's previously expressed opinions on the subject; and, in addition, he was rather severe on Mr. Chaplin and Sir Joseph Hawley for their apparent inconsistency in running two-year-olds at Lincoln and Northampton in the early spring. After the Duke of Beaufort had followed on the same side, a division was taken, when there appeared—For the resolution, 18; against it, 25. The Hon. Colonel Forester's resolution, which would not have been moved in the event of Sir Joseph's having been successful—"That no two-year-olds shall run before May 1"—was then put and carried by a large majority, several members abstaining from voting. The other resolutions fell to the ground.

The following is the letter from the Earl of Derby referred to above:—

Dear Hawley,—I have so entirely and for so many years abandoned the turf that I should hardly feel justified in attending the meeting of the Jockey Club to vote upon your proposed resolutions. But I have no hesitation in saying that, if I were present, I should cordially support your three first resolutions. I have some doubts about the fourth, which I think would be better omitted. I should even go further than you propose to do, and would gladly see the "close time" extended, as in France, to Aug. 1, or even of September. Wherever you draw the line, you must interfere with some meeting or other; but in my opinion a promising two-year-old should never make his public appearance before autumn. But I cannot conceal my opinion that your resolutions deal with only one of the vices which, as it seems to me, are yearly lowering the character of the turf. I know that some persons consider the multiplication of races and of starters a sign of its success. I look on them as the very opposite; and I should hail with satisfaction the disappearance from the Calendar of one half of the present meetings. I take it that the deterioration of the turf in public estimation, of which there is no doubt, is mainly owing now to the fact that the majority of horses are in the possession of men who run for profit and not for sport, who care nothing for the animal horse, who cannot afford to wait for a return of their money, but who, in the language of the Manchester school, "prefer a nimble nippence to a slow shilling," and in whose hands a wretched animal, especially if not quite so wretched as he is thought, is as valuable as one of a high class, if not more so. Now, this vicious system is mainly fostered—1, by the premature running of two-year-olds; 2, by the multiplication of short races, which enable horses to be brought out oftener, and so affords more frequent opportunities of gambling; and 3, by the great preponderance of handicaps.

These last are a necessary evil; but their avowed tendency is to place the best and worst horses on an equal footing, and thus to encourage the breed of the latter at least equally with the former. Now, I know that handicaps cannot be dispensed with, but I think that the evil may be greatly mitigated by fixing a maximum and a minimum weight; and I do not hesitate to express my opinion that horses which cannot meet the best likely to be entered at a difference of 4 st. or 4 st. 7 lb. have no business in important handicaps. I cannot refrain from mentioning two other points which deserve the serious attention of the Jockey Club—I mean the employment of tests and others, not merely to watch horses but to obtain illicit information by the corruption of stable-boys; and the practice, now so common as to be hardly reprobated, of running horses not to win, leading to such comments in the papers as "if he is meant," "it is not his journey," &c. My ideas may be considered Utopian, and I do not doubt that each and all of them will be vehemently opposed by clerks of the course and others pecuniarily interested in country meetings; but I am satisfied that unless the Jockey Club apply themselves vigorously to check the acknowledged abuses of the turf, not only will there be an increasing secession of men of station and character and an increasing accession of those who have neither, but they themselves will lose ground in public estimation, and public opinion will before long demand and enforce a sweeping suppression of abuses by external authority. I think nothing of the argument that the Jockey Club have no power over local meetings. I have no doubt that their decisions would be readily accepted; and, if they were not, the disqualification of horses running in violation of their rules from running at any meeting over which they have direct control would place a very effective weapon in their hands.

I pray excuse this long letter, which goes so far beyond the object of your resolutions, and exercise your own discretion as to using it in any way you like, or not at all. Yours sincerely, Sir J. Hawley, Bart.

DERBY.

**ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.**—The governors of St. George's Hospital are making a special appeal to the public for assistance. They say that their deficit last year was £7233, and that in order to cover it they have been obliged to have recourse to the invested property of the hospital. The reduction has not been replaced by fresh bequests; and unless there shall be a considerable increase in the funds by donations, subscriptions, or bequests, it will be imperatively necessary, at no distant time, to close some of the wards and otherwise reduce the number of patients. It is added that the cost of each bed in the hospital amounts to about £44 per annum. A public meeting will be held at Willis's Rooms, on Saturday next, at three o'clock, to take into consideration the present state of the funds of the hospital, and to decide on what means should be taken to increase the income. The Duke of Devonshire will preside.

## AN ARAB WELL AT YEMEN.

We have, in one or two previous Numbers, published illustrations of that primitive Eastern life which has still so many charms for most travellers, and which all of us like to read about, as opening up to us glimpses of Old World manners and customs. Our present Engraving is companion to one that appeared in our columns a few weeks ago, representing an oil-mill, for crushing the sesame seed, in a village of the province of Yemen, not far from that hot and arid district of which the burning rock on which the town of Aden is built may be taken as the representative. The illustration now published represents one of these original wells, of which we so often read in ancient Oriental literature.

The traveller (Dr. Watrin) from whose sketches our Engravings have been taken is of opinion that the Roman occupation of the country extended only to a few points on the coast near Aden, and believes that the territory of Yemen, being remarkably healthy, offers advantages to Europeans that will one day be recognised. He has also discovered several thermal springs, the waters of which he has had no opportunity of accurately analysing.

The southern portion of the country, situated between 12 deg. and 14 deg. of latitude, he says, fulfils the most favourable conditions for the recovery of consumptive patients, and a visit to that portion of Yemen, always warm and dry, would afford the best means of treatment. Ten days' voyage in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea would be an agreeable journey, and not more than the patient could bear; and he thinks it probable that when the sanitary international commission of Constantinople shall have completed its arrangements so that the probable introduction of epidemic diseases will be averted, there will be an opportunity for establishing the means of accommodating visitors who desire to remain in the most eligible portion of the district. In all parts of the country where there is no supply of water for irrigating the soil, there may be seen wells like that in our illustration. Two camels walk up and down an inclined plane, lazily working the cylinder

to the rope on which are attached two large buckets, made of ox hide. These buckets are emptied into a trough, from which the water runs off into narrow trenches that spread over the plot of land under cultivation.

## SUBSCRIPTION TO THE NEW PARIS LOAN.

M. HAUSMANN, who has converted Paris into a city of palaces, has long ceased to regard the cost; and though it may be taken for granted that a good many people are not altogether mistaken in the opinion that the picturesque is being built out of Lutetia, and that rectangular streets of big white buildings do not represent all that is required in a capital city, it is of little use to grumble, since loans are organised, and the demands of the tyrannical Prefect are acceded to with an alacrity which seems to confute the grumbling of the pessimists, and to satisfy the requisitions of the most absolute architectural government. The last loan of 260,000,000 fr. is the latest triumph of this kind, and is an answer to those who insinuated that the civic credit was already doubtful. The alacrity with which the issue of city bonds was responded to is certainly an answer to that; and it became necessary to organise a special method of receiving the avalanche of applications with which the Hôtel de Ville was inundated. Four hundred supplementary clerks were employed in order to arrange these applications in proper order, and the great Galerie des Fêtes of the civic building was devoted to the work. The result of this subscription will probably soon be known; and during the whole time the speculators of the Bourse have been keenly alive to the popular demand for the Paris Bonds. Our Engraving represents the reception and arrangement of the letters of subscription by the staff of clerks engaged for that purpose in the civic palace.

## RESULTS OF THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

A PARISIAN correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* supplies some interesting information as to the effects on parties likely to result from the recent elections in France. He says:—

"No sooner had the first shock of surprise caused by the elections passed away than all parties set diligently to work to extract some comfort from the returns; and so great is the accommodating virtue of electoral arithmetic that all—Imperialists, Liberals, and Radicals—have, to a certain extent, succeeded in proving to their own satisfaction that they have the country with them. It will not do to admit that universal suffrage has gone against one. Think what you will of it, it judges in the last resort, and from it there is no appeal—no, not even to physical force, for force resides in numbers. By a skilful grouping of figures a great deal may be done, however, and there is a grain of truth in the pretensions of each party, although they are in fact conflicting.

"Imperialism has, no doubt, sustained a severe shock in several places, and candidates who may be considered as the personal enemies of the Emperor have been acclaimed, and, in some instances, returned by the chief towns of the empire; but, on the other hand, there is great consolation in the defeat of the Orléanists, who are far more able, though they may be less violent, foes than the Radicals. The appearance of the Radical-Socialist party on the political stage has, indeed, some advantages which go far to counterbalance the vexation which its success has caused in high places. The Red Spectre, which did so much towards establishing the power of Napoleon III., can no longer be pooh-poohed as an invention of official newspapers; there it is, speaking by the mouths of MM. Raspail and Rochefort, and those who are afraid of it may take refuge under the protection of strong personal government. Moreover, the Government is even now quite sure of a large voting majority in the new Chamber, whatever may be the result of the second ballots. So, all things considered, I am inclined to believe that those who declare that the elections have been on the whole thought satisfactory at the Tuileries are quite truthful in their report.

"As to the Radicals, of course they are pleased, and of course they exaggerate the importance of their triumph. Their success has gone so far beyond their hopes that some intoxication is excusable. They sincerely think themselves 'masters of the situation.'

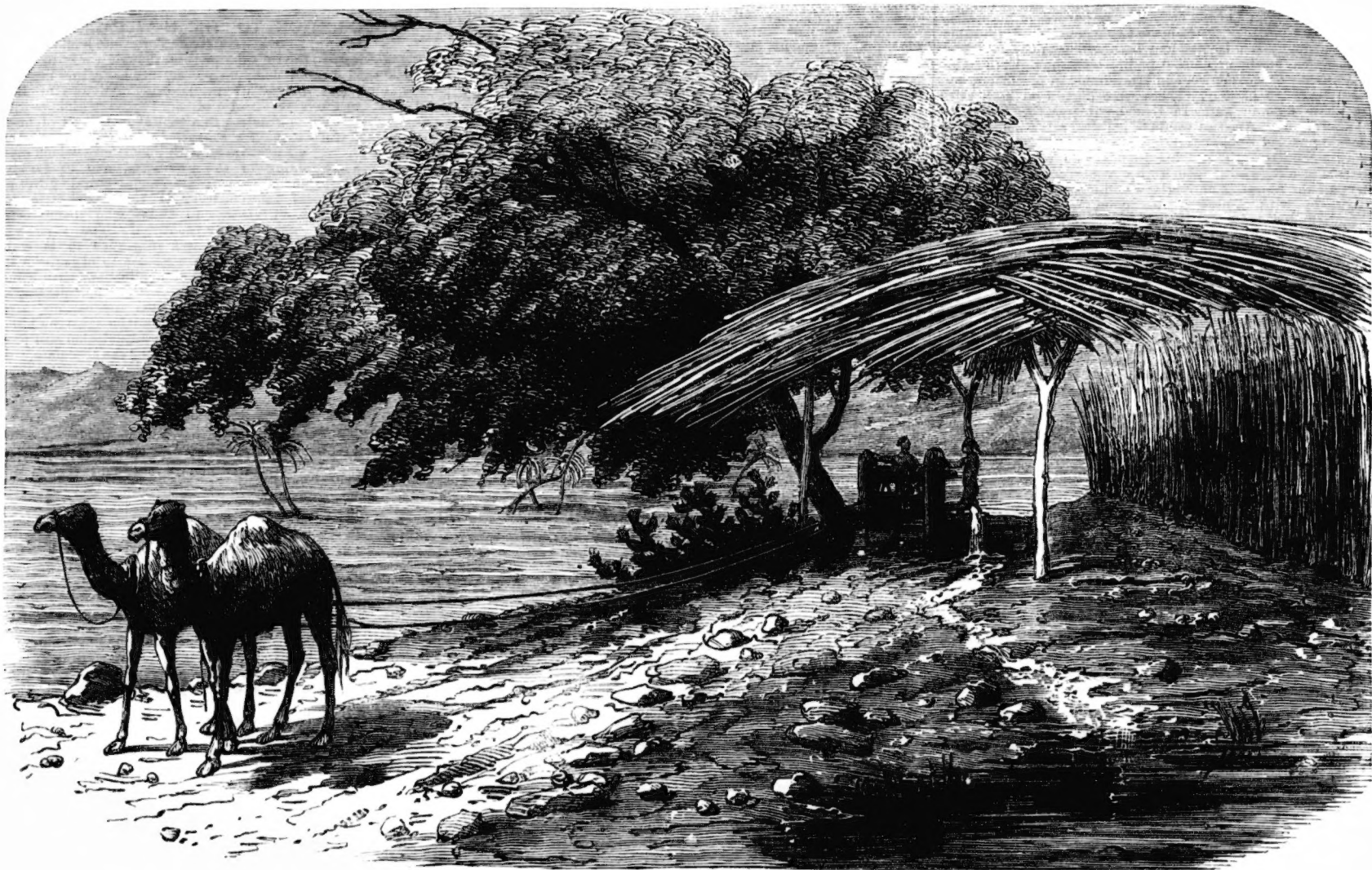
"No slight effort has been required on the part of the Liberals to resume their cheerfulness; but even they have succeeded at last in appearing hopeful. That large fraction of Liberalism which is composed of Orléanists is naturally somewhat dispirited. It mourns for its best candidates, and cannot be comforted, *quia non sunt*; but it has merged its particular troubles in the general stock, and derives consolation from the fact that the Opposition—a wide word—taken as a whole, has gained ground. In their present calculations the Liberals are fain to include under the head of Opposition not only the Radicals, against whom they are contesting seats at this present moment, but even the tiers-parti. In a word, they reckon as belonging to the Opposition, in a certain sense, all those who do not consider themselves bound never to oppose the Government on any subject whatsoever. If you will carry yourself back to the last Legislature, you will be obliged to admit that this mode of calculation is not so irrational as it at first appears. It is a great point gained that the indiscriminating majority which for six years has been ready to follow the Emperor blindfold through all the evolutions of his policy will not exist in the new Chamber. It has been reckoned—and, as far as the uncertain elements of calculation allow, I think fairly reckoned—that there will be at least a hundred members in the next Parliament that would refuse to do what their predecessors did; who would not, for instance, if a similar case presented itself, sanction without inquiry a Mexican expedition, give the Government carte blanche for its foreign policy, as was the case after Sadowa, or even consent to leave M. Hausmann's accounts quite unquestioned.

"Personal government, indeed, as it has been practised during the last seventeen years, was not upheld in presence of the electors, even by the Government candidates; not always from any scruple perhaps, but because it was felt that it must be given up to secure votes. The official candidates may be as devoted as ever, but their devotion is 'like the fixed stars, fixed in their orb that flies.' The whole system has gravitated towards a better state of things, and they have travelled unconsciously with it. In a word, the elections have shown that, although many Liberals have been thrown out, France, as a whole, has drifted into comparative Liberalism, with no very firm or *raisonné* will of her own maybe, but from the sheer force of things. Liberals are quite justified in hailing the change with pleasure, whatever may be the cause of it.

"If every party may find, with goodwill, some cause for rejoicing, it is still more true that all, with better reason, can find cause for anxiety. It is quite impossible to foresee with any certainty how the new Chamber will turn out, and what will be the respective situation of parties in it. I am not alluding only to numbers, although the fifty-nine second ballots which take place on Sunday next may make some change even in that; nor do I take into account the four undecided elections of Paris, which will be very significant in their way; I mean that the new deputies may possibly group themselves in a very unexpected way, and that the old landmarks of parties may be very much altered. Men may suddenly find themselves obliged to act with former foes against a new and common enemy. A foreshadowing of this may be seen in the fact that the Government papers are now recommending M. Jules Favre to the choice of the electors of the seventh circumscription of Paris, in order to keep out Rochefort, while M. Thiers, in his desire to exclude the official candidate at Marseilles, has written to the electors of that town in favour of Gambetta, the Radical.

"There is evidently a disappointment in store for the Socialists. They will find that half a dozen men, however noisy, cannot make themselves heard in an Assembly of 292; that they will be influenced by the atmosphere which surrounds them; and that Parliamentary forms and delays will subdue the revolutionary enthusiasm for which they have been elected. Socialism, in a word, has had its triumph at the elections; but it will not be represented in





AN ARAB WELL AT YEMEN.

the Chamber, as long as the Chamber acts in a Parliamentary way. In case of a violent political crisis, indeed, the situation would be very different, and a determined knot of 'representatives of the people,' proclaiming in the midst of general irresolution and confusion the 'Social and Democratic Republic,' might, of course, have very great influence. We have seen events quite as extraordinary.

"Long before matters come to that pass the Government majority would have melted away like snow beneath the sun, would have been scattered, like dust, before the wind. Long before their devotion could be put to any serious test, these docile voters would be on the road to Brussels, or hidden away in their cellars,

waiting to see what turn events would take. Have we not seen such things before? As one glances down the long list of official deputies, it is pitiable to think that a Government should lean upon such broken reeds. They may do right well for voting, but when the day of danger comes they will be utterly worthless. I write with no party animosity. An official candidate need not necessarily be a nonentity; he may wish to support the Government, and, being anxious to succeed in his election, may desire Government help without being worthless, but, as a rule, Government does not help men of any personal value. It knows that it has a stronger hold on those who owe it everything, and it generally selects candidates who,

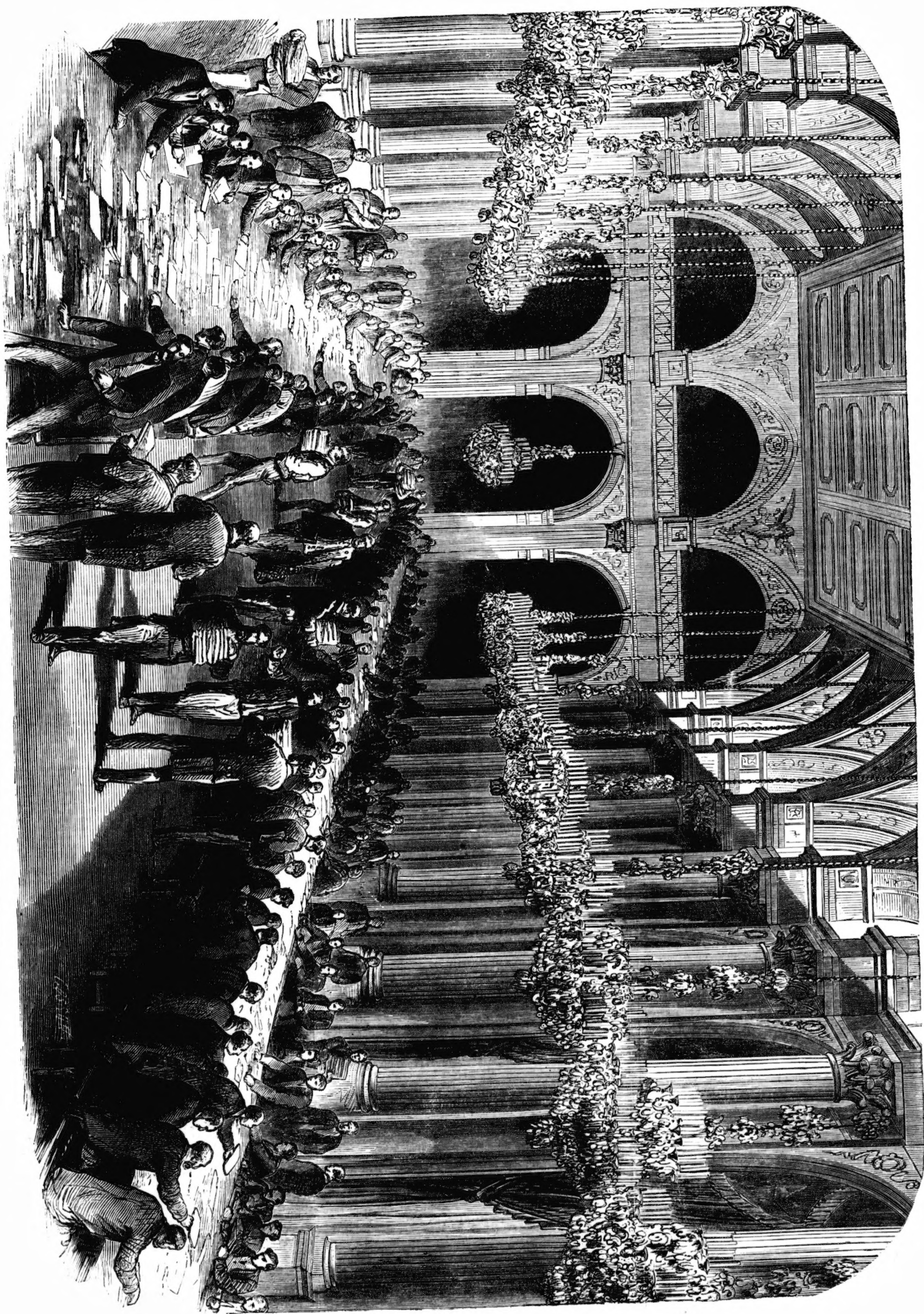
without official help, would have had no chance of being elected at all. They are not particularly obscure men or poor men, and the last Chamber was said to be possessed of more collective wealth than any previous Parliament France has seen. But they are obscure and poor as regards intellectual light and moral wealth. They may be 100, or 1000, or 100,000—it matters little; let them be ever so numerous, they are but zeros; and when the unit which gives them value is taken away they will be worth nothing."

Our Illustration represents a party of electors of the Seventh Circumscription of Paris assisting—perhaps we ought to say checking—the officials in sealing up the ballot-urn after the completion of the scrutiny.



THE FRENCH ELECTIONS: VOTERS OF THE SEVENTH CIRCUMSCRIPTION OF PARIS ASSISTING TO SEAL THE BALLOT-URNS AFTER THE SCRUTINY.





RECEIVING APPLICATIONS FOR SHARES IN THE CITY OF PARIS NEW LOAN AT THE HOTEL DE VILLE.



# INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 356.

THE HOLIDAYS OVER.

HER Majesty's faithful Commons, having enjoyed a fortnight's frolic, reassembled on Thursday, May 27. Pressing summonses had been sent out by Mr. Glyn to the Liberals, and by Mr. Noel to the Conservatives; and strangers who read these "importunate" whips thought, no doubt, that on Thursday there would be, in obedience to the summons, quite a rush of members from all parts of the kingdom. There was, though, no rush. A few minutes before the House opened there was nobody present. Soon a few members trickled in. When Mr. Speaker arrived there were just about enough to make a House, and during the whole evening the attendance was very thin. What, then! are the members disobedient to their chief? Such an importunate summons ought to have brought all up. But was the summons importunate? It looked so on the face of it; but how many strokes underlined certain words in it, for it is the number of underlines and not the words themselves which indicate the urgency of the summons. One underline attracts but little attention; three are deemed pressing; four, we suspect, would make a faithful partisan at Ultima Thule, in the dead of the night, start for the rendezvous. We suspect that the whip in question was not really importunate. At all events, very few members put in an appearance. The whip for the following Monday was importunate, and we know how it was answered.

## EX-CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

The prominent business of the first night was The Customs and Inland Revenue Duties Bill in Committee, which, being interpreted, means the Budget Bill—bill for legalising the propositions made by Mr. Lowe, our Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Budget speech. The prominent actors on this occasion were, of course, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Ward Hunt. Mr. Hunt is generally serious and solemn, and, indeed, heavy. He sometimes, though, attempts to be sprightly, but with no great success. His gambols are like the dancing of a cow, which is neither sprightly nor elegant. On this occasion he was in a serious mood, which becomes him best. The Liberal newspapers often laugh at the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer; and, in truth, he did not prove himself a brilliant nor a very successful financier. But when we consider what he was when he first took office in 1865, as Financial Secretary, a mere Northamptonshire squire—the wonder must ever be that he did his work so well. Certainly, Mr. Hunt, though not a brilliant Chancellor of the Exchequer, was by no means the worst that has sat on the Treasury Bench. In Sir Francis Baring the Whigs had a worse; and in Mr. Disraeli had the Conservatives a better? Mr. Hunt opened the business on Thursday week, and as we listened to his speech, it struck us that he understood his subject, and that his criticisms of Mr. Lowe's Budget were honest and fair, and, indeed, worthy of the consideration of the House. Mr. Hunt is not the first Chancellor of the Exchequer that Northamptonshire has given us. Lord Althorp was a Northamptonshire country gentleman. We suspect that Mr. Hunt is quite as good a financier as Lord Althorp was, and certainly he is a better speaker.

## MR. LOWE AND THE OLD LADY OF THREADNEEDLE STREET.

Mr. Lowe was all himself that night—curt, satirical, prickly, quizzical, and not a little contemptuous at times, as it appeared to us, of both friends and foes; and then how he fluttered the City Volscians, and daintily and irreverently tousled that respectable, ancient lady in Threadneedle-street, the Bank of England! The Bank of England has always been spoken of with reverence and sometimes with awe in the House of Commons; and, as we well remember, when the Governor and Deputy Governor on that black Friday were closeted in the Ministerial room for an hour considering what the Bank should do to mitigate the dreadful panic, scores of bankers, chairmen of public companies, and other City men, paced the lobby and anxiously—nay, painfully—waited for the decision of the Bank of England, as men in old times waited for the voice of the Delphic oracle. Dire ruin or salvation then, in the minds of these gentlemen, hung upon the decision of the Bank; and when the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Bank had decided to give the requisite help in the shape of a further issue of notes, there was a cheer in the lobby, and the business of the House was interrupted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might make known officially the Bank's decision. The Bank of England, then, has been considered a sort of demigod. If in its sanctum it decides to raise the rate of discount, down goes the value of all the property in the kingdom; if it lowers the discount, then up rises the value of property. This is no fiction, reader. Nay, we may go further, and say that the decrees of the Hierophants in the Bank sanctum influence the value of property in the remotest parts of the civilised world. Well, then, may the Bank of England be revered, and Bank directors be considered great people! But hear how Mr. Lowe treats this demigod, the arbiter of our destinies. Somebody had said that Government ought not to lower their balances at the Bank of England, lest the Bank should be distressed and unable to control the money market. Whereupon Mr. Lowe—"I hold that it is the duty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take care of the taxpayer, and that it is not his duty to prop up what after all is really only a private banking institution; not to put money in the Bank merely for the benefit of the shareholders, nor yet that the Bank may have large funds at command, that it may assist trade or set up storm signals to show when panics may be expected." "Only a private banking institution!" "Shareholders!" Never before was such irreverent language uttered in Parliament by a Chancellor of the Exchequer. One has heard such sentiments muttered in private by well-known heretics; but that a Chancellor of the Exchequer should openly proclaim in Parliament such barefaced heresies, is one of the strangest prodigies of this teeming time. And there were Bank directors there—nay, the Deputy Governor of the Bank; a Mr. Robert Wigram Crawford, member for the City, sat immediately behind Mr. Lowe, and our readers must imagine, for we cannot describe, the blank amazement which sat upon the face of Mr. Crawford as Mr. Lowe uttered his heresies. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer sat down, the Deputy Governor rose to express his astonishment. "The right hon. gentleman's words," the Deputy Governor said, "would produce consternation in the City;" at which the right hon. gentleman profanely laughed; and, truth to say, the Deputy Governor found few sympathisers. Indeed, several eminent City men repeated the Chancellor of the Exchequer's heresies even more emphatically; and a City man of no mean name was actually heard to say in the lobby, "There's another wind-bag pricked." Heaven preserve us! what are we coming to?

## MACFIE AND PATENTS.

On Friday week the attendance was not larger than it was on Thursday; indeed, at one time the House was in peril, and but for the unintermitted watchfulness of the Government whips it might have been counted out. The only event of importance that night was a very interesting and smart debate upon patents. Mr. Macfie opened the discussion—Mr. Robert Andrew Macfie, whom, in 1863, the Leith people sent to Parliament in room of Mr. Miller, who represented Leith, &c., in the last Parliament. Mr. Macfie is a Scotchman, as his name and accent indicate; but he resides not in Scotland, but in Liverpool, where he bakes sugar, and makes much money by his baking. Mr. Macfie uses patented machines, but does not invent them. He has to buy the patents, or pay royalties or rents for them, and it probably occurred to the canny Mr. Macfie that if he could but abolish patents, his sugar-baking business would be even more profitable than it is now. Hence his motion to abolish patents. If Mr. Macfie were an artisan inventor instead of a user of other men's inventions, would his zeal for the abolition of patents be so hot? This may be fairly questioned. The honourable member for the Leith Burghs is a tall, lanky Scot. In make, features, accent—altogether Scot; but with this speciality: most of

the Scotchmen in the House are slow-moving, somewhat plodding men; but Mr. Macfie rushes about—now here, now there, and anon nowhere to be found—like a swallow, or, if we may use an Americanism, "like greased lightning." As he darts about, earnest and eager, ever with a parcel of papers in his hand, you would imagine that he had all the world's business on his shoulders. But, lively as he is in action, he is not a lively speaker. Nevertheless, his speech on this occasion was not a bad speech, though it was unquestionably dull. We suspected, as we listened to him, that he had more materials than he could well manage. This is by no means an uncommon fault in the House. Better have too little material than too much. Depend upon it, the House will never find fault with you for giving it too little; and selecting, condensing, abridging as you go on is difficult, and perilous work. But enough of Mr. Macfie. He is a new member, and hence this notice of him. We shall probably never have to mention him again.

## SIR ROUNDELL PALMER.

When Macfie sat down Sir Roundell Palmer rose, as we thought at the time, to oppose the motion; for apart from fees received when he was Solicitor and afterwards Attorney General, these patents, with all the litigations thereon, must have poured into his pockets a very Pactolus stream of wealth. But no, by Jove! he is seconding Macfie's motion. How like Sir Roundell this is! Sometimes wrong, but always honest. Often with extreme disgust have we heard lawyers, and not lawyers only, by-the-way, earnestly and passionately talk, professedly for the public good, but really, as we could discern easily enough, for their own profit. But here is a man who is earnestly contending for the abolition of a system from which he derives no inconsiderable part of his income. There are men in the House who never speak but with an eye to business; whose speeches, as General Thompson said, always have an odour of pudding about them, and are suggestive of the pot. But Sir Roundell, as we have long since come to know, is not one of them. The right hon. gentleman's speech was eloquent—as all his speeches are—and very able; but as he was speaking it struck us that he was looking at only one side of the subject, as, indeed, lawyers generally do. And no wonder! for are they not trained and feed to do this? There is another side of this matter, we said. As the phrase is, "We should like to hear the dog's tale;" or, in plain language, what the inventors have to say. Macfie uses other men's inventions, and objects to pay for the use of them. Sir Roundell sees the evils of the present system, and against them he is irrefragable. But is there not a *tertium quid*?—a third something that we have not seen? Yes, and here is the man who will show it to us if any man can, we muttered, as Mr. James Howard, the member for Bedford, rose. He is, as everybody knows, a manufacturer of agricultural implements, steam boilers, &c., and himself an inventor. It was a bold act of Mr. Howard to rise immediately after Sir Roundell and touch the right hon. gentleman's shield and challenge him to the fight. "What can a man do that cometh after the King?" To say the least, it was a bold thing to do; but it was not presumptuous. There is an old saying, that everybody knows something that nobody else knows, and certainly Mr. Howard knows a good deal about this subject which Sir Roundell Palmer knows not, nor can ever know. *A priori*, then, Mr. Howard was right in rising to answer Sir Roundell; but Mr. Howard's speech amply justified his rising. He at least showed that there was another side of the subject; and, though he did not confute all Sir Roundell's arguments—that, indeed, he did not attempt—he certainly shook many of the learned gentleman's positions. At first Mr. Howard was a trifle flustered, as he might be, considering where he was and who he followed; but in a few minutes he gained self-possession, stood up manfully to his work, and delivered a good, sound, practical speech; and, as the cheers with which he was encouraged showed, with effect. Mr. Howard is a new member, and is another prominent example of the advantage of having educated, experienced, practical men of business in the House.

## THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

Alas! our space is nearly exhausted, and we have not noticed the great debate upon the third reading of the Irish Church Bill. But there is consolation for both ourselves and our readers. First, it was an awfully dull affair, the dullest great debate that we ever heard; and, secondly, every journal notices these big debates, whilst few, if any, describe the smaller discussions. We sometimes fancy that as a snapper up of uncon sidered trifles, and by describing debates and scenes which other chroniclers pass by, we do really give a truer picture of the House and its ways than we should do if we confined ourselves exclusively to great debates. But, nevertheless, we will say a few words about the proceedings of Monday night. As we have said, the debate was wretchedly dull. No great debate was ever more stale, flat, and unprofitable. Nor could it have been otherwise. For three months we have been thrashing this straw, and how could we hope to get much out of it but dust?

## MR. HOLT.

Mr. James Maden Holt moved that the bill be read a third time that day six months. Mr. Holt first lifted his head above the crowd on going into Committee. Some faint trumpeting had told us that in Lancashire he was thought to be a good speaker; and for a time he held the attention of the House, but only for a short time. Many of the members soon wandered away. The rest, except a few partisans around him, who now and then murmured applause, sunk, as if by a mesmeric pass, into torpor. Mr. Holt was a new speaker. The House is always very tolerant of new speakers; and so, though the hour was late, it permitted his dull stream of talk to flow on for an hour with but little interruption. This was his maiden speech. His second oration, on Monday, was like unto his first, proving, if proof were still wanting, that whatever reputation Mr. Holt may have achieved in North-East Lancashire, he will get none here. And so no more of Mr. Holt.

## LORD ELCHO IN A NEW CHARACTER.

Lord Elcho seconded the amendment. He spoke from the Conservative side of the House. He has long been oscillating between the two parties as an independent member—member upon whom nobody could depend. He now seems to have cast in his lot with the Conservatives. We have more than once in these columns described the noble Lord's style of speaking, and should not have noticed his performance on Monday night had he kept to his old style. But his Lordship came out in a new character, and adopted a new style. He seemed to aim at something between Bernal Osborne and Mr. Roebuck—the wit of the one and the acrid sarcasm of the other. The performance, though, was a failure. The wit was what Sydney Smith called "wut;" the metaphors and similes did not run on all-fours. Moreover, his Lordship is too kind, too much of a gentleman, to be a Roebuck. His darts were pointless, his satire quite innocuous. He had better drop all that and keep to his own rôle—the easy, graceful, gentlemanly speaker. And now we must stop, simply noting that from this point the House fell into a somnolent condition, out of which neither Disraeli nor even Gladstone could completely rouse it.

KING JOHN'S TOWER, one of the oldest buildings of Windsor Castle, is now in course of restoration by Messrs. Watson and Burfoot, who are also repairing the Magazine Tower, on the north side of the palace, a short distance from the Winchester Tower.

MR. PEABODY.—Mr. Peabody sailed from Liverpool last Saturday morning in the mail-steamer Scotia. He was accompanied on board by Sir C. M. Lamson, and by Mr. Dudley, the American Consul at the port. Many hundreds of spectators had assembled to witness Mr. Peabody's departure. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that Mr. Peabody has no intention of remaining in the United States. Among his numerous benefactions there is one for the establishment and maintenance of schools in the Southern States, where they are much needed. They are not designed to be schools for "freedmen's children" merely, but for black and white alike; and, the general plan being now in a fair way of accomplishment, Mr. Peabody has resolved to increase his original donation. He has gone to America to settle the business arrangements; and we are now able to state that he intends to return to this country in the autumn or early next spring.

# Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 28.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"LAVELLE V. PROUDFOOT."

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. CHARLEY called attention to the case of "Lavelle v. Proudfoot," lately tried at the Galway Assizes, in which a poor woman was said to have been subjected to great oppression by a Roman Catholic priest. Mr. Charley wished to know, apropos of this case, whether the Government were prepared to do away with the national school system in Ireland, and to hand over the education of the people to the priests; or whether they would take measures to protect the Roman Catholics against the violence of their own clergy.

Mr. GLADSTONE gave him to understand that Government had no such intention, and contemplated no such protective measure as the one he suggested.

## THE PATENT LAWS.

Mr. MACFIE then, in a speech of some length, moved that the time had now come when, in the interests of trade and commerce, science and art the granting of patents for inventions should be discontinued.

Sir R. PALMER seconded the motion, and expressed himself in favour of the total abolition of all rewards for inventions.

The discussion was continued by Lord Stanley, who was in favour of the motion; Mr. J. Howard, Mr. Mundella, Mr. Stapleton, and Lord Elcho, who opposed it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL believed that the patent law should be amended rather than abolished, and that it had done much more good than harm.

The motion was ultimately withdrawn.

MONDAY, MAY, 31.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat for the first time after the holidays. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE moved the second reading of a bill to repeal the Acts of 1799 and 1819, under which the publishers of newspapers or pamphlets were obliged to enter into securities.

Lord CAIRNS attacked the Home Secretary for having recently put in force a provision of the Act of 1792 now sought to be repealed, by preventing one Murphy lecturing in Tynemouth.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, having stated that the action of the Home Secretary was simply taken to prevent a disturbance of the public peace, the bill was read the second time.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

Mr. GLADSTONE having moved the third reading of the Irish Church Bill, several Conservative petitions were presented against the bill; and

Mr. HOLT moved that the bill be read the third time that day three months, prefacing his remarks with the admission that he did not expect to be able to influence hon. gentlemen opposite. The character of his arguments may be gathered from the fact that he objected to the measure as calculated to destroy the ascendancy in Ireland of the class on which the progress and prosperity of Ireland depended.

Lord ELCHO seconded the motion, quoting Dr. Chalmers to prove that the Irish Protestant Church was the main element of Irish civilisation, and contending that, to be consistent with itself, the Government would be obliged to offer Ireland much more than even its supporters would be disposed to grant.

Mr. CARDWELL said he had listened with far greater pleasure to Lord Elcho's illustrations than to the small portion of his speech which had anything to do with the question before the House.

Sir F. HEYGATE followed against the bill.

After several other hon. members had addressed the House pro and con., Mr. DISRAELI, commencing his observations with the jocular remark that in this debate the Sustentation Fund seemed nearly exhausted, proceeded at some length to support the motion made by Mr. Holt. In his remarks the right hon. gentleman treated the House to a paraphrase of his "melancholy ocean" speech, delivered some months ago, and urged that the failure of much of the legislation for Ireland had been due to the Legislature forgetting that her grievances were due to physical and not to political circumstances. Now that the Fenian conspiracy had been brought to an end, and Ireland was on the way to prosperity, he strongly opposed the passage of a bill like the present, which would not increase that prosperity, but would strongly endanger its continuance.

Mr. GLADSTONE, having commented upon the speeches of Lord Mayo in reference to the condition of Ireland and contrasted them with the sanguine picture drawn of it by the leader of the Opposition, observed that the Government was now only endeavouring to give effect, though in a different way, to the policy which Mr. Pitt and Lord Castlereagh, the authors of the Union, promised to inaugurate when they pledged themselves to establish religious equality in Ireland. The maintenance of the State Church was a standing injustice to the people of Ireland, and constituted an inseparable portion of that system from which all the woes and miseries of the country proceeded. It had been said in the debate that the measure was cruel, unjust, and so forth, and that it was about to be carried out with illiberality, harshness, and rigour. This he denied, for he held that the provision made for the Church was ample and generous, regard being had to the numerical strength of its community and the work it had to do. Had the House, however, agreed to the amendments of the Opposition, the result would have been to have given the Church more property than it now held. Referring to the House of Lords, the right hon. gentleman said that he did not complain of them for throwing out the Suspensory Bill of last year. With regard to the present bill, however, he would not be so unjust to the Lords as to believe that they could fail to discern their own duty, and what was due, on the one hand, to the people of this kingdom, with whom they would now stand face to face, and on the other hand, to their own permanent dignity and utility as a great institution.

At one o'clock the House divided, when the numbers were—For the third reading, 361; against, 247; majority for Ministers, 114. The result was received with loud Ministerial cheers.

The bill was then read the third time and passed.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Irish Church Bill was brought in and read the first time—Earl GRANVILLE stating that he would move the second reading on the 14th inst. The Stannaries Bill having been read the second time.

The Earl of LONGFORD asked if the recent appointment of Under-Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland was a permanent one, and whether a military commission was held to be a disqualification for the office. Earl GRANVILLE replied in the affirmative to the first, and in the negative to the second of these questions.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in reply to Earl Grey, said it was not the intention of the Government to bring in any measure having reference to cases similar to that of the late Mayor of Cork. Such cases were exceptional, and his present opinion was that they should be legislated for as they arose. However, he would promise that the question should have the consideration of the Government.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARK-LANE IMPROVEMENT.

Soon after the commencement of business a long discussion took place on the Park-lane improvement question, the Marquis of HAMILTON moving an amendment for the recommittal of the bill for the insertion of a compensatory clause. The motion was ultimately negatived without a division, and the motion that the bill be considered was carried.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT.

Mr. OTWAY, in answer to Mr. Gourley, said that the Viceroy of Egypt was expected to arrive in this country about the 22nd inst., and that proper arrangements would be made for his reception.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.

After other questions had been answered, it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. GLADSTONE, that the House at its rising should adjourn to Thursday.

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S TERRITORY. Sir H. VERNY then rose to call the attention of the House to the result of the negotiation with the Hudson's Bay Company, and the Government of Canada, and to the immense tracts of land available for purposes of colonisation in that vast territory.

Mr. R. N. FOWLER pleaded that, as we were going to annex those territories to Canada, we should carefully consider the position of the native Indians.

Mr. AYTOUN deprecated the acquisition of new territory.

The debate was continued by Mr. Kinnaird, Colonel Sykes, Mr. Samuelson, Mr. Monsell, Sir S. Northcote, Lord Bury, Mr. Ellice, Sir O. W. Dilke, Mr. Adderley, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Gladstone. The motion was ultimately withdrawn, Mr. Monsell intimating that the papers would be produced.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

LIFE PEERAGES BILL.

After some strictures on the objects of the bill by Lord CAIRNS, which were replied to by the Earl of CARNARVON, the House went in Committee. On Clause 1 being proposed,

Earl STANHOPE moved a proviso to the effect that one peerage might be granted without any condition; but that a second could be conferred only on a Cabinet Minister or a naval or military officer, who had performed some signal service to his country during the preceding twelve months; but that under no circumstances should more than two of such peerages be created in any one year.



Earl RUSSELL accepted the alterations of Lord Cairns in the preamble; but he could not agree to the amendment of Earl Stanhope, or the others of which notice had been given. The object he had in view was to improve the tone of the debate in the House, and to raise it in the estimation of the public; and he believed the bill would effect that object.

The Marquis of SALISBURY said that he did not object to the bill on Constitutional grounds, for he thought that if the Royal prerogative had been more freely exercised it would have been better for their Lordships' House. He did not object to twenty-eight members being added to them; but he must say that he would prefer their being added at the rate of two in each year, instead of four.

Viscount HALIFAX was unwilling to assent to any proposition which would have the effect of impairing the general hereditary character of that House. He opposed the amendment.

The Earl of HARROWAY believed that the great commercial men of the country generally would refuse a life peerage, considering that it would be a degradation. Such men were sure of obtaining respect, whether they were life peers or not.

Lord LYVEDEN observed that the limitation principle was the most difficult one to determine. He suggested that the limitation should not be made too narrow.

Earl GRANVILLE was of opinion that if this bill passed there would be no lack of eminent men to accept life peerages. He thought that if they sent this bill down to the Lower House with the provision of the noble and learned Lord, coupling the conferring of life peerages with so many technical conditions and limitations, the measure would be received with much and well-deserved ridicule.

Earl GREY suggested that a difficulty might arise in the event of one Government appointing the whole number, and the succeeding one being unable to appoint any.

After some further discussion, Earl RUSSELL suggested that if the amendment of Earl Stanhope were withdrawn he would consent to alter the number of life peers to be created annually from four to two, and also to limit the number of such peers at any one time to twenty-eight.

Earl STANHOPE, on that understanding, withdrew his amendment.

The alterations were then made, and the various clauses of the bill passed. Lord CAIRNS moved an amendment to the preamble of the bill, the object of which was to state distinctly the reason why the bill had been introduced; and it was agreed to.

The bill then passed through Committee.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Imperial Gas Bill, after some objections from Mr. Goldney and Mr. Morrison was read the third time and passed.

#### THE BANKRUPTCY BILL.

The House went into Committee on the Bankruptcy Bill. Several clauses were debated and some minor amendments agreed to.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1869.

#### THE LAST OF THE ELECTION PETITIONS.

WITH the trial under the petition for North Norfolk the election petitions for this Parliament are at an end. Some of the results which were confidently prophesied have not come to pass. For example, the ermine of the Bench is not sullied. Several of our contemporaries, including one of the most powerful of them, assured us, almost after the Judges had begun to sit, and when that kind of criticism was scarcely decorous, that it would be quite impossible for the Judges to maintain their ancient prestige for impartiality; that they would fall under the imputation of political bias; and that courts of justice would become scenes of suppressed ill-feeling of a kind to which they have, for centuries at least, been strangers. This was a chimerical fear; and the results have not been such as to put, retrospectively, any show of reason into it.

What the Judges have in fact done, beyond what Parliamentary Committees—the tribunals which formerly used to decide these matters—is chiefly this:—they have thrown an air of something like legal exactitude and definition over the grounds on which declarations of bribery are made. Even here, however, the result is not quite satisfactory. The Judges began, through the mouth of Baron Martin, by laying it down that large and unnecessary expenditure made out a *prima facie* case against a candidate; but this has been gradually whittled away to nothing. The decision in the case of Westminster we all remember; and, probably, most of us do not forget the facts. There is, in truth, a great advantage possessed by candidates now which they did not possess previously. The code by which they know they will be tried is, with the transient exception just pointed out, uniform: they know what they may do and what they may not do. And, omitting overt acts of bribery and intimidation, such as any man may avoid and yet transact a good deal of both in a quiet though effective way, it comes to this—people may do almost anything they like. If you are a large employer of labour, or if you have much influence in connection with certain religious or charitable organisations, or if, in a hundred conceivable ways, you have the command of purse-strings, or plenty of what is called "influence," you may most effectually bribe by looks, by casual oblique remarks, by setting women or children to work, and, last, not least, through the pulpit or at the prayer-meeting.

Lord Brougham was always saying, "You never succeeded in putting down the slave trade till I got trading in human beings made felony; and you will never succeed in putting down bribery till you make that felony also." But the downfall of the slave trade was mainly due to other causes (of which the possibility of passing such a law was no doubt one index); and bribery, if it ever ceases, will not cease wholly, or mainly, or in any considerable degree, because it is punishable and punished. The present system is an improvement upon the old one; but any penal machinery which the law can put in force must prove as powerless to put down bribery and intimidation as it would be to prevent mercenary marriages. It is even a fair question whether bribery and intimidation (supposing the

latter unaccompanied by any form of force which would be on other grounds criminal) are matters with which the law has any concern, and whether it might not be better just to take off those sham reins of prevention and let people out-bribe and out-frighten each other as fast as they like, till the thing does a natural death, partly through its own excess bringing about a practical *reductio ad absurdum* and partly through an improvement in the tone of political feeling among all classes of the community.

#### MR. GLADSTONE AND THE REFORM CLUB.

THE Reform Club have the power of electing, of their own mere motion, in any one year, two members, to be chosen for the greatness of their public services, or for other reasons which may make particular men appear worthy of the distinction, and the club desirous of having their names on its books. This year the Reform Club have elected Mr. Gladstone one of their number. It is well done—and the club must be congratulated on the choice. But it is impossible not to recall a certain scene at the Carlton Club in 1852, when Mr. Gladstone was a member of it. The right hon. gentleman had just been administering to Mr. Disraeli, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, one of the most fiery rebukes ever delivered in the House of Commons. On his going to the Carlton Club, a day or two afterwards, it was said (and there was no doubt expressed of the truth of the report) that Mr. Gladstone was grossly insulted by some of the members present. It was the year of the great "W. B." election disclosures; Tory feeling ran high; and the story goes that one of the "gentlemen" in the room, said to a friend, in a tone and manner purposely intended to affront Mr. Gladstone, that it might be as well to pitch him out of window in the direction of the Reform Club. Well, Mr. Gladstone has got there by a pleasanter method; and a great empire is all the stronger, all the prouder, and all the more certain of its future, that it has become possible for him to be placed upon the roll of such a body.

#### THE LOUNGER.

THE National Gallery is now opened at ten o'clock. At this hour most of our business men and the great majority of Government clerks, and, indeed, clerks in general, must be at their offices. At the next meeting of the trustees they will be asked to open the gallery at nine, to enable said business men, clerks, &c., to drop in and take a refreshing look at the glorious pictures, now all hung so that they can be seen as they were never seen before. And why cannot we be allowed to enter and roam about the gallery on Sunday afternoon? We can go to Hampton Court and Kew Gardens; why should we be shut out of the National Gallery? It is our own fault. The authorities would be found soft to the touch if we pressed them; indeed, they are anxious to give us this privilege. Have you, Mr. Editor, seen the pictures in their new room? If not, go; and let all your readers go too. It is simply a new creation. In the first place, the number of pictures is largely increased. The Vernon gallery is now there, and, what is infinitely more important, you can see the pictures. I hear that Mr. Layard is anxious to ornament this room. Let not the trustees listen for a moment to such a foolish suggestion. The walls and ceilings of a picture gallery are most adorned when adorned the least. So far from wanting more gilding, we want less. We shall see the pictures to more advantage when Time shall have dimmed the too resplendent frames. It is to be hoped that the trustees will have the good sense and taste to resist this threatened invasion of gilders and fresco daubers. Let the decorators display the wonders of their art in Ritualist churches, theatres, music-halls, saloons, &c. Here their so-called decorations would be abominations—profanities.

There is no truth—not the smallest glimmer—in the report that Earl Spencer is about to resign his office of Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Nor is it true that Mr. Chichester Fortescue means to give up the Irish Secretaryship, and suffer political extinction by being raised to a peerage. Mr. Fortescue's elder brother is Baron Clermont. His Lordship is married, but has no son. Mr. Fortescue is, therefore, his Lordship's heir presumptive, but only to the Irish Barony. The English Barony, which gives Baron Clermont a seat in the House of Peers, would, if he should die leaving no son, become extinct. But, should Mr. Fortescue succeed to the Irish Barony, there can be little doubt that he would be made an English peer.

No dovecot was ever more fluttered by the appearance of a hawk in its neighbourhood than the presence of Mr. Baxter at the Admiralty has fluttered the departments. This simile, though, is bad, for the alarmed officials are not doves—no, by no means doves. We may liken them rather to birds of prey. Some strange doings have been revealed to me; but, as my manner is, I must keep them to myself till I can get authority to publish them. They will startle you when you hear of them.

#### THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Some time ago—two or three years, I fancy—it fell to my lot to notice a volume of poems by Mr. Robert Leighton. Perhaps I did not praise them nearly enough, feeling that they were over-informed with thought, and holding with Milton (who too often broke his own rule) that poetry should be simple, sensuous (is not that his word rather than "sensuous"?), and passionate. But, at all events, Mr. Leighton is beyond question a poet, and a subtle one too. Because he is so subtle he will never have a very large audience; but his volume (published by Routledge and Co.) is in its second edition, and I beg leave warmly to congratulate both the poet and his readers. The topic arises in this way. The same publishers have sent me a little brochure by Mr. Leighton, entitled "Scotch Words, and the Baptism of the Bairn," which is also in its second edition, and which consists of two really humorous little pieces, which seem originally not to have been composed with an eye to publication. Mr. Leighton and his story are utterly unknown to me; but some anonymous gentleman, who edits these capital short poems, writes ominously that even if they should make Mr. Robert Leighton better known to his countrymen "the knowledge may for him come too late." This is a sad hearing, whatever it means. *Di meliora!* And let Mr. Leighton rest assured that he is known, understood, and appreciated by a considerable public. Meanwhile, the little brochure is well worth buying.

One ought at once to mention that the *Fortnightly* again contains a sensation article, Professor Huxley's answer to Mr. Congreve. The general reader will not find this as interesting as the "protoplasm" paper; but to a smaller circle it will be even more stimulating.

In *Belgravia* there are some unusually good papers. Mr. Sala, "On a Little Learning," is most delightful. I well remember being amused with the criticism which accused him of making an improper use of the *vidi tantum* locution. "Political Immorality," by Mr. F. T. Monro, is curious as well as good. So is "The late Prince Consort as a Composer"—some very pleasing pieces of music by the Prince being introduced. In "My Enemy's

Daughter" Mr. Justin McCarthy long ago showed his hand, but the interest and merit of the story continue undiminished. The paper on "Writing for Money," by Mr. G. H. Guest, is interesting; but to criticise it would require an essay.

#### THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

There seems to be a growing resentment against pieces which depend rather upon elaborate scenery and gorgeous dresses than on any intellectual qualities they possess. This disposition is, of course, a happy one, but subject to this drawback—that those who allow it to affect them are rather too liable to be carried to the opposite extreme, and to declare that dresses, scenery, and decorations are, in the case of a good play, really worthless, and that their only stage utility consists in their power of bolstering up a thoroughly bad piece. There has been, I think, a rather unjust tirade against Mr. Burnand's piece, "The Turn of the Tide," at the QUEEN'S, on this score. I cannot pretend that I like the piece, for it is much too sketchy and disjointed for my taste; but, at the same time, I don't see that Mr. Burnand's offence is heightened by the fact that the lady characters in his play wear expensive dresses, and many of them, or by the fact that the costumer's name is mentioned in the bill. If the gas inspector, the property man, and the boxkeepers have their names printed in full, in company with those of the master carpenter, the prompter, and the bill-inspector, I do not see that there is any valid reason why that of the milliner who clothes the piece should be omitted. The piece is not a good one. It is much, very much too long, and there is not sufficient story to account for the four long acts, the ten scenes, and the four "tableaux," in which the piece is played. The hero of the play is a snob who, being married, passes himself off as a bachelor, and so wins the affections of an innocent young girl, whom he marries as soon as he discovers that his wife has been smashed in a carriage accident. His wife is a mercenary virago, his friends are empty-headed men of fashion, and his mother-in-law is a conventional "fashionable mother." He has, however, one true friend (very well played by Mr. Clayton), who endeavours to put him right when he goes wrong; but who, on the other hand, is afflicted with a taste for moralising which may be taken as a "set-off" to his other good qualities. In addition to these ladies and gentlemen we have a vulgar stockbroker, his vulgar wife and his haughty daughter; an elderly medical man, who wants to marry an innocent young girl of eighteen; and an innocent young girl of eighteen, who, having accepted, and so becoming duly engaged to, the elderly medical man, throws him over in her innocence to marry a younger and a richer lover, as soon as the younger and richer lover proposes to her. There is really no more plot in the piece than I have suggested by this sketch of the characters represented; and how in the world a piece which might be easily told in two scenes comes to attain the proportions of "The Turn of the Tide" I am a loss to explain. English dramatists seem quite to ignore the golden rule of dramatic instruction:—"Tell what you have to tell as briefly and as concisely as you can consistently with the proper development of your characters." There are, however, some scenes that are very carefully and effectively written, particularly that in which the indifferent husband and supercilious wife agree to separate; but although this particular scene received full justice at Mr. Vezin's hands, Miss Sophie Young, who played the other part, was manifestly overweighted. The piece was very well received on the occasion of its first representation, and the author was called at the end of the first act—a call, however, that with much good taste he declined to accept. The scenery is occasionally very good—the cave scene is admirable, after its kind; but the artist made a mistake in rushing on to acknowledge the applause with which it was received—a fact which was made manifest to him by the storm of hisses with which his appearance was hailed. The press arrangements were simply disgraceful. I saw eight or ten of the representatives of the principal newspapers standing at the entrance to the stalls during the greater part of the first two acts, because there were no seats for them.

Herr Formes has made his appearance at the PRINCESS'S as an English actor. He appeared last Wednesday as Shylock, in "The Merchant of Venice," and showed considerable aptitude for his new line of histrionic art. His Shylock, in the earlier scenes of the piece, is nearly all that it could be wished to be; but it must be admitted that—perhaps from fatigue or some annoyance—he fell off sadly in the trial scene. Herr Formes appears to give greater prominence to the religious and domestic sides of Shylock's character than actors usually do. His manner is apparently unstudied, and certainly "unstagey." His magnificent bass voice is of great use to him in the more emotional parts of the play; but his want of command over the English language is a serious drawback to the perfect enjoyment of his performance. Herr Formes was assisted by Miss Bouverie as Portia. Miss Bouverie is evidently no tragedienne. She is quite at home in light comedy, but in high tragedy she is overweighted. Her faults are probably the faults of her instructor. She is evidently a highly intelligent actress; she certainly has a pretty and singularly expressive stage face; and she evidently understands her author in the lighter passages of the piece; but in the grander episodes she loses her head and goes altogether wrong. This was evidently the case in the speech on "Mercy," through which she stormed and ranted like a Surrey heroine. Surely, the effect of this eminently pathetic speech is enhanced in proportion to the calm dignity with which it is pronounced. Miss Bouverie has certain faults of pronunciation, which she will do well to shake off as soon as possible. To pronounce "garpe" as though it were spelt "garpe," and generally to substitute "a" for "e," is to be guilty of an absurdity which only old-fashioned actors would attempt to defend.

THE LORDS JUSTICES on Monday gave an important judgment in respect to the affairs of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway. The Court below had issued an injunction restraining the directors from prosecuting a bill before the House of Lords for a voluntary compromise; Lord Justice Selwyn, with whom was Lord Justice Giffard, summarily reversed the decision, and the bill therefore goes on.

THE CHARITY SCHOOLS FESTIVAL.—The anniversary meeting of the charity-school children of London, in the Cathedral of St. Paul, took place on Thursday morning, beneath the dome. A crowded congregation was present. The children were ranged in tiers rising gradually from the front row on the platform, and occupied only the north and south sides of the space beneath the dome, instead of forming almost a circle as heretofore. The clergy and distinguished visitors had a space allotted to them in the centre beneath the dome, and the choir and choir gallery, and the nave were fully occupied by spectators. The service commenced with the singing of the 100th Psalm by the choir and the children. The "Te Deum" and "Jubilate" were by Goss; and before the prayer for the Queen the Coronation Anthem, "Zadok the Priest," was sung, and before the sermon the chorale, "Sleepers wake," was executed with very great effect. Several of the choral parts of the service were accompanied by a trumpet in addition to the organ. The Bishop of London delivered an earnest and impressive sermon from the 30th and 31st verses of the 8th chapter of Acts.

AN UNWHOLESOME WORKHOUSE.—A somewhat startling discovery in a sanitary point of view has been made in the St. Pancras workhouse, which may afford a useful hint to those concerned in the erection of such buildings. The room occupied by the late medical officer, Dr. Gibson, and the infirmary wards adjoining have been for some time past pervaded by a most noxious sewer smell, to which may be attributed, medical men state, the total loss of health which compelled Dr. Gibson to resign his office. The attempts to trace whence these smells arose have hitherto failed, notwithstanding that drains have been opened, gratings, and even hearthstones, taken up; till at last Mr. Blake, the master, with the assistance of Mr. Ward, the engineer, commenced examining the basement of the building, when an opening was found large enough to admit a man to pass from one end of the infirmary to the other, under No. 6 ward, and this space was found to contain an immense quantity of foetid matter; in two days 2265 gallons were baled out. It appears that the infirmary is ventilated by shafts in the walls which were intended to admit pure air, but which in fact conveyed the vitiated air and sewer gas from the accumulation in the basement of the building. The leakage is supposed by the master to have arisen from the canal adjoining it being higher than the base of the infirmary; but, from the quantity of animal matter in the water, it is thought by others probable that it arose from the burial-ground adjoining the premises.



the colour, few can be satisfied with the want of atmosphere. A pleasing study of a pretty face is "At the Opera," by Mr. Grierson; and a capital bit of painting, full of subtlety and effect, is Mr. H. Dawson's "Greenwich Hospital," with its river reach and general dull light.

Mr. Wyllie has also contributed a "Reach of the Thames," and an extraordinary picture it is: one full of suggestion as to what the artist can accomplish; but yet, if we may be allowed the expression, a ghostly picture; but then the time and the scene are ghostly. Under the title of "The Bank-Note Printer," Mr. R. P. Williams has contributed a finely-painted figure, which is probably a portrait; but is very well worth study notwithstanding. A little picture of "Antolyns," by Mr. W. H. Haines, is well conceived, and satisfactory from the absence of false effect. Mrs. A. Melville has painted a charming picture called "I'm Father's Little Man"—just such a chubby rogue as would always claim that title, and who on the strength of carrying that big loaf, the slice of cheese, and the long clay tobacco-pipe, without either stumbling or breakage, deserves the distinction. "The Pilot's Holiday," by Mr. J. G. Nash, is an attractive picture. The rough fellow in the boat, who has brought a store of ruddy apples from shore, and, as he comes alongside the larger, holds one up for the bonny boy who has come on board with his mother to share—as well as to make—the holiday, is admirably painted.

is at all equal in interest to that of last year, there are so many good works by well-known artists that we hope the success of the experiment will be established. In the absence of buildings capable of receiving large consignments of art-productions, we must be contented to divide the exhibitions, and that at the Corinthian Gallery has claims which will doubtless be recognised.

The first work which claims the attention of the visitor is Mr. E. Radford's painting from the Spanish ballad of "Zara's Earrings," and the little pictures, which, after all, mean so much to the visiting public; but it may be taken for granted that there are a number of real judges whose verdicts are favourably recorded. It is only necessary to stand near a group of those who go to enjoy the exhibition—the quiet little family parties, the pleasant knots of young ladies, the fathers and mothers who like to see what is going on in the art-world—and we shall always overhear genial opinions on such pictures as that represented in our Engraving.

invest in a new waistcoat is something wonderful. "Near Woodford, in Essex," is a pretty pit of scenery; and "A Bright Day in June on the Lea Marshes" is a charming memento of a part of the country not enough known by painters, who may go further for tender sky and water effects with pretty landscape—and not far so well. "Look How Tame He Is!" a picture, by Mr. Hoyell, of a little girl (a portrait surely), with an admirably-rendered face, letting a tame canary from a cage, and "The Loose Tooth: Once, Twice, Thrice!" by Mr. William Strutt, are

### THE LADIES' WALK AT CAIRO.

Now that the Prince and Princess of Wales have visited the Nile, and been the guests of the Viceroy, whose fez has been taken from his head to salute the consort of his Royal guest, we may expect to hear of still further progress on the part of the people who represent the advanced party in Egypt as well as in Turkey. By progress, we mean of course further adoption of European customs and ideas. It may be a long time before a Sultan brings with him on a visit to this country a Sultana, or a Viceroy his principal and favourite wife; but the time may not be very far distant, in spite of Mr. Burton and Brigham Young, when polygamy will cease among all even partially civilised peoples. As it is, the harem is not so guarded as it used to be in olden times; and the legends of retinues of wives and slaves belong to a past age. It is not common for the ordinary Egyptians to have more than one wife, and many of the foremost men of the East have for years past abandoned actual polygamy; and the scene depicted in our Illustration itself will soon be out of date. It is true that the women of Cairo still go out veiled, so that only their eyes, painted with kohl, and their feet and hands, ornamented with henna and just peeping from loose sleeve or shuffling slipper, are all that may be seen of their undoubted beauty; but the old practice of concealing the face will doubtless yield to the influence of the European Princess, whose example will surely produce a revolt in the harem. The truth is, that it is rather the facility for divorce than polygamy that is the most pernicious custom in Egypt, and this will doubtless be rapidly influenced by European usage, and the dignity accorded to women by Christian nations. Our Engraving represents the garden attached to the palace and harem of Mus-tapha Pacha; and here, amidst the luxuriant tropical vegetation which, when cultivated, renders an Egyptian pleasure-ground so beautiful, the ladies and their attendants, with the children, walk beneath the shade of the dark cy-presses. These gardens ad-joining the palace are very lovely; and at Shoobra, about four miles to the north of Cairo, and reached by a road along the banks of the Nile, shaded with lofty acamores, the splendid country seat of Mehemet Ali was surrounded by a garden and pleasure-ground, where about thirty Persian wheels were employed in irrigating the ground. Ibrahim Pacha had his fine palace and magnificent ground at a spot between Boulae, the lower port of Cairo, and the city itself.

### "A GALLANT."

This picture, by M. Eagles, is one of the most attractive small works in that very attractive exhibition the gallery in Suffolk-street. It is, perhaps, beneath the usual criticism of the high-art school to notice these

### FINE ARTS.

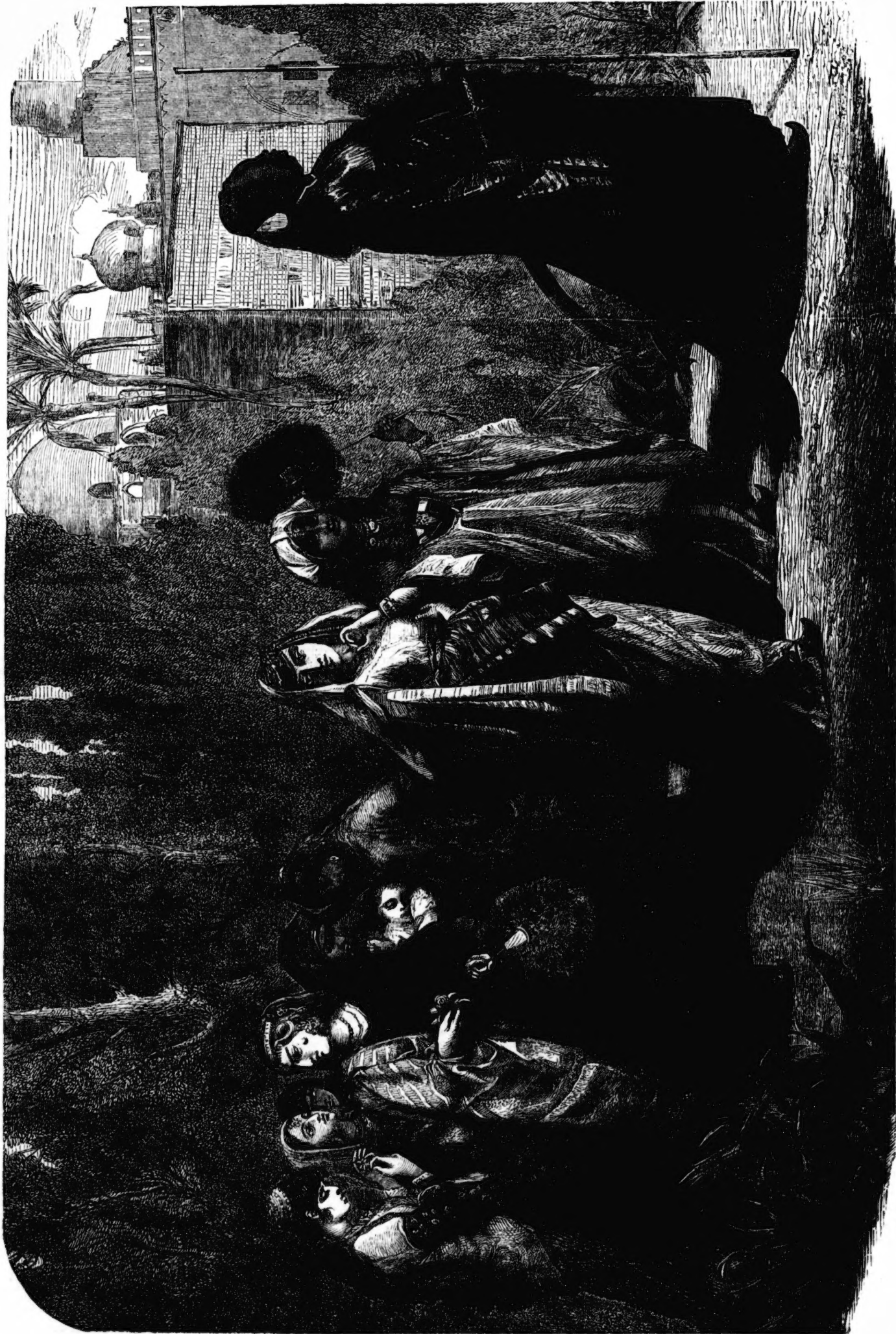
#### CORINTHIAN GALLERY, ARGYLL-STREET.

THIS exhibition of oil paintings and water-colour drawings, which was instituted last year, in two handsome rooms belonging to the building partially occupied as a bazaar, in Argyll-street, is open for the present season, and, though we can hardly represent that the collection of pictures

#### THE LADIES' WALK AT CAIRO.

pose and expression of the girl at the well are admirably executed. A very pretty little bit, too, is Mr. A. W. Bayes's "Story by the Way," in which two children are reading a book as they go to school. Mr. W. L. Wyllie has sent a larger canvas, in which, under the title of "Home-ward Bound," he depicts a wrecked hull, masts and crew alike gone, drifting on to a ledge of rock, under a sky lurid with mottled clouds of red and yellow. There is something that is suggestive, but more that is painful, in the work, and, if one does not doubt,

invest in a new waistcoat is something wonderful. "Near Woodford, in Essex," is a pretty pit of scenery; and "A Bright Day in June on the Lea Marshes" is a charming memento of a part of the country not enough known by painters, who may go further for tender sky and water effects with pretty landscape—and not far so well. "Look How Tame He Is!" a picture, by Mr. Hoyell, of a little girl (a portrait surely), with an admirably-rendered face, letting a tame canary from a cage, and "The Loose Tooth: Once, Twice, Thrice!" by Mr. William Strutt, are







"THE YOUNG GALLANT."—(FROM THE PICTURE BY E. EAGLES, IN THE SUFFOLK-STREET EXHIBITION.)

both what some of our young friends would call jolly pictures. So the elders would say of "Enough is as Good as a Feast," by Mr. J. Hayllar. It represents a fine, hearty, sturdy, elderly fellow sitting down at his dinner-hour to eat bread and bacon; and a comfortable-looking stone bottle placed in the shade of a tree, among the long grass, suggests the truth of the proverb. "Will He Come," by Mr. A. F. Patten, is a charming study of an Italian girl waiting anxiously and listening for an expected footstep. Mr. P. Hoyoll has contributed another "jolly picture," called "Listening on the Sly." It represents an artful little puss pre-

tending to read the newspaper by the fireside while she overhears the conversation of her elders, who do not notice how she has installed herself in that comfortable chair where the ruddy glow of the firelight falls on her and gives quite an elfish look to her cunning little phiz. "The Performing Monkey," by Mr. J. A. Winter, is a capital scene, representing a crowd gathered round that well-known performer, who, at the bidding of his master, goes through the infantry drill on a round portable platform. The half-contemptuous, half-amused look of the old Chelsea pensioner, and the queer, dawning consciousness of the volunteer rifleman, who

form part of the crowd, are well conceived; and the admirable selection of figures for the crowd itself shows not only study but keen appreciation. The girl who has been out to fetch a plate of oysters and stands with the street-door key in her hand is especially good.

With Mr. T. S. Steele's rendering of "The Pilgrims and the Peas," and a general reference to some very excellent fruit and flower pieces—but without any mention of the admirable collection of water-colour drawings, or of the pieces of sculpture which, with Mr. J. A. Raemaker's casts of Dignity and Impudence, make up the exhibition—we must close our notice of a very interesting gallery.



## SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of the celebration of her birthday, on Wednesday, to give orders for a number of promotions in and appointments to the most Honourable Order of the Bath.

THE PRINCE OF WALES held a Levée at St. James's Palace on Tuesday, on behalf of the Queen. His Royal Highness, with the Princess of Wales, afterwards went to the Horse Show, where the attendance was very numerous in anticipation of the Royal visit.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN had a sudden return of the indisposition from which she has been suffering for some time past, while about to leave London for Balmoral the other day, and had to relinquish the journey. Her Royal Highness, however, is not seriously ill, and Prince Christian has gone to Scotland on a visit to her Majesty.

THE QUEEN has presented a handsome silver cup to the Aberdeenshire Volunteer Artillery and Rifle Association, to be competed for at the next annual meeting, or "wapsinshaw," of the corps. The competition is to be open to the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON, accompanied by several Generals, recently witnessed a trial made at the Tuilleries of a new cooking apparatus for boiling coffee and cooking provisions. It is heated by petroleum lamps, and both coffee and meat may be prepared in the course of an hour. The whole may be carried on the back of a mule, and a dinner be dressed as the animal advances on a march.

THE REV. ASHLEY OXENDEN, Rector of Pluckley, Kent, has been elected by the Canadian Churchmen Bishop of Montreal. Mr. Oxenden is an Evangelical.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has taken for the Ascot week Cooper's-bill, the residence of Mr. Albert Grant, late member for Kidderminster. It was formerly in the occupation of Sir John Cathcart, and is a very large mansion, beautifully situated at Englefield-green, a short distance from Windsor.

THE REFORM CLUB will, it is understood, shortly entertain Mr. Gladstone and Earl Granville at a grand banquet, in recognition of their services to the Liberal cause.

THE MEMORIAL STATUE OF THE LATE LORD PALMERSTON, which has been erected by public subscription in Southampton, was publicly uncovered on Wednesday afternoon, by Lord Carnarvon. The ceremony was taken part in by the Mayor and Corporation, and in the evening there was a banquet.

PRESIDENT GRANT has issued a proclamation directing that there shall be no reduction of wages of Government workmen on account of the reduced hours of labour under the Eight-Hour Labour Bill.

MR. STREET'S DESIGN FOR THE NEW LAW COURTS on the site proposed by Mr. Lowe has been placed in the library of the House of Commons for the inspection of members. The ground and block plans only are given, the design for the elevation not being yet completed.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE has been appointed one of the trustees of the Peabody Fund for the benefit of the London poor, in the room of Sir Emerson Tennent, deceased. The trustees now are Lord Stanley (chairman), Sir Curtis Lamson, the American Minister, Sir Stafford Northcote, and Mr. J. S. Morgan.

HER MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY was officially celebrated on Wednesday. The Prince and Princess of Wales inspected the household troops in St. James's Park; and the Lord Lieutenant was present at a grand review in Phoenix Park, Dublin. The illuminations in London at night were unusually fine.

THE LATE MR. J. G. BELL, of Manchester, spent half a lifetime in illustrating a folio edition of the Holy Bible. The work grew under his hands, and at his death the accumulation of engravings, photographs, and original drawings was so large that it filled sixty-three folio volumes. This Bible is now for sale. The celebrated Bowyer Bible reached only forty-five volumes, but then photography had not come into general use.

THE REMAINS OF SIR CHARLES DILKE were, on Monday, removed from his late residence in Knightsbridge to the family vault at Kensal-green Cemetery.

THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT has recognised the Cuban insurgents as belligerents.

CHOLERA is reported to have broken out among the European troops at Gwalior, and several fatal cases have occurred.

THE REV. SEPTIMUS ANDREWS, Vicar of Market Harborough, on Saturday last, it is said, formally resigned his position, with the avowed intention of joining the Church of Rome.

THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT has sent an emigration agent to France, to promote emigration from that country to the Dominion.

THE MONKWEARMOUTH COLLIERY has stopped working, owing to a strike for an advance of wages. It is the deepest colliery in the north, and nearly 1000 men and boys were employed.

THE CORK TOWN COUNCIL has resolved to petition Parliament for the release of the remaining political prisoners.

VICE-CHANCELLOR MALINS gave judgment, on Monday, in favour of a claim on the part of Overend, Gurney, and Co. to prove for £109,000 in respect of a loan made to the Cork and Youghal Railway Company, and ordered the sum to be repaid out of the assets of the latter company before anything was paid to the shareholders.

THE FIRST TWO BUILDINGS of the National Cottage Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Ventnor, Undercliff, Isle of Wight, are now close upon completion; and preparations are being made for the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the second pair of houses in July next by a member of the Royal family, in the name of the Queen.

THE NATIONAL DOG CLUB'S SHOW of sporting and other dogs opened on Tuesday in Liverpool-road, Islington. All parts of England are well represented at the show, and there are numerous specimens of Continental breeds.

MAZZINI is said to have passed through Paris on his way to England, and to have quietly smoked his cigar in front of a well-known café. On embarking at Boulogne he is said to have put into the hands of a messenger a telegraphic despatch to the Prefect of Police in Paris, informing him of the circumstance, which, if true, can hardly be pleasant in the memory of that functionary.

THE COMPLETION OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD was celebrated characteristically at San Francisco. When the telegraph announced the last rail laid the whistles of thirty locomotives, gaily decked, and drawn up in line, screamed out in concert as an expression of joy, and all the steam-whistles in the city joined in.

A SURGEON practising in Bloomsbury was, on Monday, summoned at Bow-street for refusing to have his child vaccinated. He pleaded guilty, and declared that not only did he decline to have the operation performed on his own son, but he refused to take any part whatever in carrying out the provisions of the Vaccination Act, believing it to be a mistaken piece of legislation. The magistrate had no alternative but to inflict a penalty.

THE MASONS AND BRICKLAYERS AT WIGAN have struck work, as also have a hundred of the operative masons of Halifax, and a thousand colliers in the little Hulton district, Bolton.

GENERAL McCLELLAN arrived in Washington on the 12th ult., for the first time since he left in the spring of 1862, and paid a visit to General Grant. The meeting between them was quite cordial. The conversation on business lasted about a quarter of an hour, when the President introduced cigars, and with their appearance the conversation turned on the incidents of the late war. The interview is said to have been of the most agreeable character, and continued for nearly an hour.

THE BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS for April show that the exports in that month amounted to £15,624,475, an increase of about eight per cent over the corresponding month of last year, and a still larger increase upon the figures of April, 1867. The imports are made up to the end of March. In that month their total value was £19,448,415, or less by rather over £2,000,000 than the amount of the imports in March last year.

MR. RIGBY WASON seems determined to bring Karl Russell and other peers to the bar of the Central Criminal Court, and again preferred his charges of conspiracy at the Marlborough-street Police Court. Mr. Tyrwhitt refused a summons, but, at Mr. Wason's request, bound him over to prosecute the charge at the Old Bailey.

THE COMMITTEE who had charge of the "Great Protestant Demonstration" recently held in Belfast are sending round the hat for contributions towards the expenses. Three peers—Lords Templetown, O'Neill, and Castletown—have already promised the sum of £20 between them.

BRADFORD is about to erect a townhall, at the cost of £40,000. The site will be in New Market-street, not far from St. George's Hall, one of the most handsome and spacious structures in the kingdom. Premiums are offered for architectural designs, and the successful competitor will be intrusted with the execution of the works, receiving in payment a commission of 5 per cent on the actual outlay.

THE FRANCISCAN MONK JAGER, formerly private secretary to the Archbishop of Prague, and confessor to his Saxon Majesty while in the Bohemian capital in 1866, has become a convert to Protestantism, and, after undergoing the examination required in such cases, preached for the first time on Sunday, May 8, in the Dresden Evangelical Court Chapel, to the great satisfaction of his auditory.

A PAN-PROTESTANT CONFERENCE met at Worms on Monday. It is stated that about 100 delegates were present. The conference has drawn up and adopted a declaration setting forth that Protestants can never return to the Church of Rome, and protesting against the principles of the Pope's Encyclical and the Syllabus. Popery within the pale of Protestantism is not less vigorously denounced. "All efforts made within the Protestant Church to found a hierarchical power or the supremacy of dogma are a flat denial of the principles of Protestantism, and are simply so many bridges to Rome."

## THE IRISH CHURCH AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE Marquis of Lothian has addressed the following letter on the above subject to the editor of the *Times* :—

"Sir,—As being a disabled member of the House of Lords, and therefore being incapable of speaking or even of voting in my proper place, I trust you will allow me the exceptional favour of expressing through your columns views which I strongly entertain upon the important question which will soon come before that House; for I think it may fairly be assumed that the Irish Church Bill will pass its final stage in the Commons. I do so thus prematurely because you are likely to have more space for the insertion of a letter now than after the recess.

"From all I hear, great pressure has been brought to bear upon the Opposition to induce them to divide against the bill; and there is no doubt that, if they make up their minds to do so, they can throw it out. I wish to try and show some reason why they should not exercise that power.

"The case is not the same as it was last year. There were then certain peers (I have forgotten their names, and do not wish to remember them) who spoke to their colleagues in language which might almost be called threatening, telling them that they had better take care what they were about in rejecting a measure passed in the House of Commons. After such language as this, I was not surprised at the large majority by which the bill was thrown out. The then House of Commons was a body not only condemned to dissolution but about to be replaced by another House, elected by an entirely new constituency, and it was only allowed to exist in order to complete the measure which was to reconstitute it. Under these circumstances it appeared to me almost unconstitutional that it should interrupt the business which was the sole cause of its continued existence, in order to waste a great part of the Session in discussing a bill which was suddenly and unexpectedly brought before it, which was not only totally irrelevant but one which, whether good or bad, cannot be called otherwise than revolutionary.

"Circumstances have now entirely changed. Whatever I might have thought about the Irish Church, I should have voted against the bill last year. Whatever I may think on the subject now, I should not vote against it this year. It is not now a question between Commons and Lords; it is a question between Parliament and the nation.

"Till within a comparatively very recent period, the nation left Parliament to settle business in its own way, without troubling itself to interfere, except in cases of very great importance. And Parliament managed matters, as a rule, satisfactorily. The two Houses worked together pretty harmoniously on the whole; they had occasional squabbles, in which sometimes one House prevailed, sometimes the other, while their differences were usually settled by a compromise. Things are now very different. Owing to a variety of causes, chiefly the spread of education and the enormous growth of the Press, Parliament has been brought under the close inspection of the country, and the country is not slow to form its opinion on subjects as to which at one time the vast majority of its inhabitants would have been profoundly indifferent. Having formed it, it has the power of bringing its will sharply, some are inclined to think too sharply, to bear upon the House of Commons, not only by the increased action of constituencies upon their representatives but also by the greater frequency of dissolutions. It has no such constitutional power of bringing its will to bear upon the House of Lords, and therefore it is all the more necessary that the House of Lords should bring that will to bear upon itself. It would be a mere platitude to say that it is not desirable that any body of men, however highly gifted, however highly cultivated, however highly endowed with ability and statesmanship its members may be, should have the power of permanently opposing the will of the nation to which it belongs. And, desirable or not desirable, it would be simply impossible, except in the case of a military despotism, and hardly even then. I doubt whether even the Emperor of the French, with all his ability and all his great military resources, could maintain his power long if it were not popular with the majority of his people. Modern history knows of one—and, as far as I know of, only one—exception to this rule; but it is not generally thought that the *liberum veto* did much good to Poland, and, at any rate, the gods defend us from any approach to a *liberum veto* here!

"I have said all this with most perfect disinterestedness, and quite irrespectively of the character of the bill. I disliked the bill of last year; I dislike the bill of this year even more. Disendowment has had many hard epithets applied to it, some of which I cannot think altogether undeserved. Disestablishment I regard as even worse. I believe it to be a great present evil and pregnant with still greater evil in the future. I have tried to think otherwise, but I cannot. But I have at least come to this conclusion, that I may be wrong. I suppose there are few people who doubt now that the Reform Bill of 1832 and the repeal of the corn laws were beneficial measures, and yet it would only be the veriest sciolist, not to say idiot, who could doubt that they were opposed by many men, not only of the most undoubted honesty, but of the highest ability. These are almost commonplace. But speaking within the period of my own recollection, there are many people—and I trust not all to be condemned as hopeless blockheads, since I was one of them—who warmly took the side of Austria in both the wars which she has waged within the last ten years, and who have come afterwards to see that her failure in both instances was not only a great blessing to Europe in general, but to herself in particular. And therefore it may possibly be that, as Mr. Bright has prophesied, twenty years hence such of us as are then alive may have come to consider this measure to have been a salutary one. In language which, though somewhat technical, is sufficiently intelligible, though I cannot conceive, I can suppose it.

"Thus far about throwing out the bill by a direct negative. But I have heard it said that there would be an attempt to get rid of it by a side wind by moving that the question of the Church should be postponed till some measure has been passed for the settlement of the land difficulty. Most heartily should I approve such a course if I thought that it would do any good. But does any one suppose that it would do any good? Should such a measure be carried in the House of Lords, can it be supposed that the Government will give way to it, or that, with their unflinching majority of a hundred and odd, they would not be certain to throw it out in the House of Commons? It is not difficult to guess what would follow. There would be something like a quarrel between the two Houses. That, lamentable as it would be, would be comparatively a small matter. But what must we expect to happen in Ireland? Would it not be this, that the furies which have been raging there would be increased tenfold? There are many who say, and I confess I believe them, that the Irish people cared little enough at first about the Church question; but they would easily be worked up now to think that the rejection of the bill was a deliberate denial of justice to them on the part of the British Parliament. And the result of that would be that all through the long winter recess we should hear of horrors by the side of which those that have lately so much affected us would shrink into nothing, and at the end of that season of disaster, during which (it is a violent metaphor, but I believe I am quoting from somewhere) the columns of the newspapers would seem to be red with blood, the two parties would meet together again at Westminster, exasperated to a degree they have not reached at present, each fingering the guilt of the bloodshed in the face of the other, to begin their dreary game of voting and counter-voting over again.

"There is one reason, which I have not yet noticed, which might justify the Opposition in the course which many people think they are going to take; and that is, the belief that a strong reaction has taken place in public opinion since the election of the present House of Commons. If they really believe this, and that a dissolution would convert the Government majority into a minority, I should be the last to deny that they would be acting wisely in rejecting the bill. But ought they not to be very sure of their ground before they act upon that belief? A majority such as the Government now commands is not an easy thing to reverse. I am quite pre-

pared to believe that the late news from Ireland, and the line that has been taken by the Government on the subject, may lose them a few votes; but the loss of a few votes would not be enough to turn the scale; and in the mean time would it not be putting a very powerful weapon into their hands to give them the cry to go to the country with of "Justice to Ireland, accorded by the people of England, but denied by the House of Lords?"

"I feel that I must apologise not only for the length of this letter, but also for the clumsiness of expression, of which I am only too sensible. I am unable to write, and dictating is very difficult to me—so much so that, where any precision of language is required, I had, after several failures, given up the attempt. But this is not all. Seclusion from the world, such as is forced upon me, is as little good for a human being as the want of light and air is to a plant. Those of your readers who are conversant with the Elizabethan dramatists may recollect the lines—

He that knows most men's manners must of necessity  
Best know his own, and mend those by example.  
'Tis a dull thing to travel like a mill-horse,  
Still in the place he was born in, lamed and blinded.  
Living at home is like it.

And yet, with all this knowledge of the reasons for silence, I still ask you to insert this letter. It would be absurd that every peer or M.P. who is unable to attend a given debate should think himself entitled to send the speech he would wish to have made to be printed, in the form of a letter to the editor of a newspaper. But my position is a somewhat peculiar one, and, it seems to me, in a matter which is, as I think, of such vital importance as that now hanging in the balance, that no one who has a strong opinion which it would be incumbent on him to express, were he able to do so, either by speech or vote in Parliament, should be deterred by the want of confidence in his own opinion or power of stating it clearly, from seeking to give expression to it.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

LOTHIAN.

"I need hardly say that this letter has been delayed a few days."

## THE CONSERVATIVES AND THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

OUR Conservative contemporaries are having some difficulty with their friends. Now that everybody is asking, What will the Lords do? a good many people are advising the Lords what to do, and the noisiest are not the wisest. A large section of the Tory party is calling on the House of Lords to reject the Irish Church Bill, and to save the Irish Establishment; and Archdeacon Denison writes to the *Standard* an almost lyrical lament on the possibility that the Lords may consent to the bill, in obedience to the strongly-pronounced opinion of the country. But a wiser and more statesman-like section of the party sees the danger of such a course. The *Standard* reminds the Archdeacon that that "legislation cannot be called hasty which has been discussed for twelve months and received the sanction of the electoral body;" that "it is impracticable for the Upper House to resist a Ministry backed by the Commons and the majority of the nation;" and that "the attempt, if persisted in, must bring down the Constitution in ruins, without saving the Church." Nor is there any hope in a dissolution of Parliament and a new election. The *Standard*, of course, believes in some coming Conservative reaction; but not one which will save the Irish Church. A dissolution of Parliament and a new election would not only not help it, but "would send back a House of Commons more Radical, more resolute, and more angry than the present. A new Church Bill worse than this would be at once sent up to the Lords," and must then be passed. Our contemporary consequently counsels the violent spirits of the party to hold their tongues, and not demand the impossible. It accepts the verdict of the constituencies as final, and is too shrewd even to hint a doubt as to what that verdict is. "We cannot," says our contemporary, "advise the Peers to measure their strength against that of a decisive electoral majority, because in such a struggle they must be beaten." These are not the assertions of a Liberal writer, but the admissions of a Conservatism which is wise in its generation; and as Conservative readings of a truth which all Liberals have long seen clearly, we commend them to all whom they may concern.

THE DUTY ON CORN.—The provision of the Budget abolishing the last remaining shilling duty on foreign corn, which took effect on Tuesday, sweeps away a relic which has existed as a reminder of the great struggle between Free Trade and Protection a quarter of a century ago. The Act retaining the one shilling duty has been in operation rather over twenty years. From the passing of the Corn Importation Bill of Sir R. Peel, in 1846, abolishing the sliding scale which had kept up the price of wheat to over 70s. a quarter, it was enacted that a greatly reduced duty should be levied until Feb. 1, 1849, when a uniform rate of one shilling should be imposed upon the importation of all kinds of grain. This enactment is now repealed.

FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION.—A dreadful boiler explosion occurred early on Monday morning at the Plough Colliery, the property of the Powell Duffryn Steam-Coal Company, in the Aberdare Valley. The engines for raising the coal and pumping the water out of the pit were supplied with steam from three large flat-end boilers, 36 ft. long and 7 ft. in diameter, the plates being three eighths of an inch in thickness. One of these, that next the engine-house, on Monday morning, about half-past six o'clock, when the colliers were collecting round the pit's mouth previous to going down for the day's work, suddenly exploded. It rose from its bed to some height, and then broke into three pieces, which were thrown straight between the stack and engine-house, and fell across the fence of the adjoining Taff Vale Railway, 50 yards off. At the same time a great quantity of rubbish rose in the air and was scattered in all directions. It fell upon the adjoining houses and passed through the roofs and ceilings till it reached the lower floors. George Rose, a stoker, who was firing one of the other boilers at the time of the explosion, was killed by the boiling water and mud which fell on him. David Richard, a collier, aged sixteen, was sitting, when a stone fell on him and killed him on the spot; Daniel Griffiths, a collier, aged thirty-two, was also killed on the spot; David Lewis, a labourer, who had just gone into the ash-pit when the accident happened, was scalded to death. Besides these, four other men were injured by the falling rubbish. The surgeons of the works were promptly on the spot, accompanied by neighbours, who rendered all the assistance they could to the injured.

MORE "FINE FRESH SOULS!"—Mr. Driver, the auctioneer, of Whitehall, offered for sale, the other day, at the Mart, three advowsons and next presentation to the Rectory and Vicarage of Westborough, with that of Dry Doddington, in the county and diocese of Lincoln. It appears that last year the living became vacant by the death of the Rev. R. Vaughan, and the trustees in whom the patronage is vested, being unable legally to sell the next presentation during a vacancy, nominated to it the Rev. R. Meredith, Vicar of Hagborne, an aged clergyman, whose possession of the living would give a "prospect of early presentation," and thus increase the value of the advowson in the market. Mr. Driver expatiated on the value of Church property with great zeal. He said it was quite clear from the course which Parliament was taking on the question of the disestablishment of the Irish Church that it had no desire whatever unduly to interfere with the rights of ecclesiastical property, so that if it should come to pass that a bill for the disestablishment of the English Church were introduced, the owners of such property as he was then offering for sale would have nothing to fear. This living presented especial advantages to gentlemen who had sons who were about to take holy orders in the Church, for it was worth £708 per annum; and, although there were two churches to serve—one at Westborough and one at Dry Doddington—they were only a mile and a half apart, and the custom had been to have service alternately at each place—namely, in the morning at one, and in the evening at the other, and vice versa. Even if a curate were paid a handsome salary to assist—say £100 a year—it would leave £600 a year for the Rector, and his duties would be very light indeed. It was a very pleasant part of the country, near Newark; there was plenty of good society, and he thought he might say of good hunting. The population was under 500. There was a rectory-house fit for a gentleman's family; and there would be no difficulty in obtaining the income, for the property from which it was derived was held by six tenants, and all the Rector had to do was to request them to call and pay their rents. If the living were in actual possession, he calculated that it would be worth £10,000; but it was not in actual possession, although, in the ordinary course of events—the present Rector being seventy-three years of age—there would be a vacancy before long. Under these circumstances, he was open to a bid. Would any gentleman say £5000? After a pause, some one offered £4000; this was followed, very slowly, by £4100, £4200, up to £4800, when the bidding came to a dead lock. Mr. Driver cleverly urged the advantages which the living presented, the securities it offered as an investment, the light and agreeable nature of the duties which the clergyman would have to perform; but nothing would move the bidders, and he then announced that the biddings had not reached the price which had been reserved by the vendors. He added that if any gentleman was desirous of treating for the benefit of private contract, and would call at his office, he should be informed what the exact reserved price was.—*Grantham Journal*.



# PASSAGE OF THE IRISH CHURCH BILL THROUGH THE COMMONS.

THE passage of the Irish Church Disestablishment Bill through the House of Commons extended over a period of thirteen weeks, the measure having been introduced by the Prime Minister on March 1. On the 18th of that month the debate on the second reading was commenced, and it was continued until the morning of the 24th, when Mr. Disraeli's amendment for its rejection was negatived by 368 to 250. On April 15 Mr. Gladstone moved that the House go into Committee on the bill, when Mr. Newdegate interposed with an adverse amendment, which, after one night's debate, was rejected by 355 to 229. On the next evening the House commenced the consideration of the bill in Committee. Mr. Disraeli at once moved the omission of the second clause dissolving the legislative union between the Established Churches of England and Ireland. The clause was affirmed by 304 to 221. On the 19th Mr. Hardy moved that the date of separation should be 1872 instead of 1871, but this was negatived by 301 to 194. The clause vesting the property of the Irish Church in the hands of three Special Commissioners was approved by 214 to 103.

It will be unnecessary to follow the whole of the divisions in Committee, dealing, as most of them did, with compensations to those whose vested interests are affected by the measure. The first morning sitting, held for the purpose of pushing the bill forward, took place on May 4, and it was occupied by a discussion on the propositions of the Government respecting the College of Maynooth. The second morning sitting was on the 7th of the same month, when the whole of the clauses having passed through Committee, the chairman was ordered to report the bill to the House on the 13th. This was done, and the bill was read the third time on Tuesday morning by a majority of 114.

From first to last, this measure has occupied nineteen sittings of the House—viz., one on its introduction, four on the second reading, one on the motion for going into Committee, twelve in Committee, and one on the third reading. The number of divisions has been twenty-two. The highest majority on any subject dealt with by the bill—148—was obtained on an amendment moved by Mr. Fawcett, referring to the sale of tithes, on May 3. The lowest—86—was on an amendment of Mr. Disraeli, which proposed to alter the date fixed by the bill for dealing with private endowments. The average majority has been 112. The actual majority on the third reading was the same as that with which Mr. Gladstone returned from the country after the general election, when there were 386 Liberals and 272 Conservatives.

The manner in which the Opposition has met the Irish Church Bill has not been quite so obstructive as the reception given to another great measure opposed by the main body of the Tory party nearly forty years ago. We refer to the first Reform Bill. There may have been "nights of speeches" in 1832; but in 1831 "nights of divisions" were the rule. One instance will suffice. On July 12, 1831, a motion was made for the Speaker to leave the chair, in order that the House might go into Committee on the Reform Bill. It was met by the Tories with repeated motions for adjournment, on each of which a discussion followed and a division took place. The House was kept sitting until half-past seven in the morning. When Sir Charles Wetherall, who had led the Opposition on this occasion, came out it was raining heavily. "By Jove!" he exclaimed, in a tone of vexation, to a friend who accompanied him, "if I had known this, they should have had a few more divisions!"

THE LONGFORD BOARD OF GUARDIANS having petitioned Parliament in favour of the Irish Church Bill, the Earl of Granard has written to that body congratulating them on their having taken up the support of "a just and salutary measure." The Earl of Dartrey, one of the Liberal peers who voted against the Suspensory Bill, last year, has addressed a letter to the Monaghan Protestant Association, in which he refuses to oppose the present measure, and adds that it would not be wise for the Lords to reject it.

CRIME IN IRELAND.—A Parliamentary return obtained on the motion of Mr. Garthorne Hardy gives some statistics of crime in Ireland officially reported from the date of the last session up to April 12. Six murders (one of them a case of infanticide) have been reported, five attempted murders, thirty-seven crimes of personal violence (two of which resulted in death), and forty-nine instances of threatening notices having been sent. Sixteen of these were in Westmeath and five in Donegal.

EXECUTIONS ON THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.—Executions have been levied in the house of the Duke of Newcastle in Carlton House-terrace, at the suit of Mr. Henry Padwick and Mr. Byss, the claim of the former gentleman being for £95,000. A great portion of the property distrained on is claimed by Mr. Gladstone and Lord de Tabley, as trustees under the late Duke's will (the present Duke having only a life interest in it), and by Mrs. Hope, mother of the present Duchess. The question whether the Sheriff could distrain under these circumstances came before Mr. Baron Martin at chambers on Wednesday. His Lordship made an order that the Sheriff should withdraw in regard to all the property identified as having been left by the late Duke. As to the property claimed by Mrs. Hope—most of which, it was alleged, really belonged to the present Duchess—the Judge granted time for the production of evidence of ownership.

THE PARKS.—The vote proposed this Session for Hyde Park, St. James's Park, and the Green Park, is £49,831—a rather smaller sum than the vote of last Session. Among the items for new works are £2017 for an extension of the horse-ride in Hyde Park; £13,125, half the estimated cost of reducing the depth of the Serpentine, and otherwise improving it; £1020 for widening the drive from Hyde Park-corner to Albert-gate, and £200 for improving and planting between Albert-gate and the cavalry barracks; £130 for enclosing the southern boundary between Albert and White Horse-gates; £514 for gliding portions of the gates at Hyde Park-corner and the Marble Arch; £50 for fixing the arms of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster on the site of the old conduit in Hyde Park, near the east end of the Serpentine; and £355 for forming a line of detached flower-beds on the east side of the Green Park. The vote for Kensington Gardens is to be £5269; it includes £230 for a large new plant-house, and £240 for iron railing on the site of the old bridge between the Serpentine Bridge and Botten-row, to separate the gardens from Hyde Park. The vote proposed for Regent's Park and Primrose-hill, £11,922, is much less than the vote of last year, which included the cost of reducing the depth of the lake. The new works include new iron railing and gates to replace decayed wooden fences, £2505, the second vote on account of the whole £25,000 required; also £700 for new plantations in the park, and £112 for a new walk across Primrose-hill. The vote for Victoria Park is to be £7690; £257 will be laid out upon a new plant-house, and £75 for an additional pontoon at the bathing-lake. Battersea Park requires a vote of £9367, £462 for a large plant-house, £300 for completion of the river embankment, £150 for completing rockwork at the waterfall, and £300 for thinning shrubberies and planting new mounds. The votes for Greenwich Park and Kennington Park are smaller, and almost wholly for maintenance. Kew Gardens are to have a vote of £20,840; the chief new work is the range of hothouses. The total vote for parks and pleasure gardens is to be £128,876, a decrease of £8647.

GOVERNMENT INSURANCES AND ANNUITIES.—A Parliamentary paper with this heading, recently published, shows that, according to the accounts of the National Debt Office, the sums received during the past year on account of deferred life annuities amounted to £4979, and the receipts on contracts to £4206; that fifty-nine new contracts were entered into during the year, representing a total of £1152, and that the total number of all current contracts at the end of the year was 228, representing a total of £4703. The sums received on account of payments on death amounted to £4728 (including a balance of £243 from December, 1867), and the receipts on contracts to £4192. Eleven payments, amounting to £734, were made during the year, 350 new contracts were entered into, representing £26,781, the total number of all contracts at the end of the year being 1719, representing £134,823 sterling. According to the accounts submitted by Mr. George Chetwynd, Receiver and Accountant-General to the Post Office, the amount received by the Postmaster-General during the past year for the purchase of deferred annuities and monthly allowances was £22652, on account of contracts for the payment of sums at death £4192, and for the purchase of immediate annuities £10,775. The total sums received by the Post Office on account of Government annuity and insurance contracts from the commencement of business, on April 17, 1865, to Dec. 31, 1868, amounted to £256,691, of which £163,751 was received between April, 1865, and December, 1867; and £92,939 during the past year. Since the commencement of business in April, 1865, £25,762 has been paid to annuitants, £475 in premiums on deferred annuity contracts, money returnable and paid to contractors; and £1122 in cash paid under contracts for sums payable at death. At the end of last year there were in existence 860 contracts for immediate annuities; sixty-two for deferred annuities and monthly allowances, money not returnable; ninety-eight for the same, money returnable; and 1789 for sums payable at death. The charges for the management of this branch of the Post Office amounted last year to £309, of which £233 was expended in salaries and allowances, and £76 in fees to medical officers. The total expenses since the commencement of business in April, 1865, amounted to £3220, the chief item of which was £1413 for stationery.

## Literature.

*The Life and Writings of Joseph Mazzini.* Vol. V. Autobiographical and Political. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

To the politician, this is, perhaps, the most interesting of the volumes of Mazzini's works yet published. It contains some details—not given as history, but which may be regarded as materials for history, to be very carefully winnowed of party bias, however—respecting the events of 1848-9, the Royal War, its origin, management, and collapse. The first half of the volume is devoted to this period; the second half consists of occasional addresses and other political essays. A perusal of the volume, we fear, will leave on the student's mind a feeling of great depression. If all Signor Mazzini says of those bitter enemies of his—the Moderates—be true, there can be small hope for the future of Italy, seeing that those same Moderates (who, or their representatives or successors, still control Italian affairs) seem to be all either knaves or incapables; while if all, or one half, that the Moderates say of Mazzini and his political confederates be justified by facts, the Italian Republicans are the most intractable, unmanageable, wrong-headed beings in existence, who either will not or cannot act in such a way as to make their labours of practical use to their country. There is probably much exaggeration on both sides; but that only shows how bitter—almost irreconcilable—is the enmity between the two parties, and, consequently, how difficult must be the work of Italian regeneration and consolidation. An approximation to the truth might perhaps be made by saying that the balance of theoretical consistency and single-minded patriotism is on the side of Signor Mazzini and the Republicans; the balance of practical work done on that of the Moderates and the Monarchy; but why each party should hate the other with a most perfect and enduring hatred, instead of combining their efforts to complete the great work of national regeneration, is what will puzzle the reader to understand. On one point, we cannot help thinking that Mazzini's mind is altogether astray. He repudiates Cavour's idea of a "free Church in a free State," and seems to have some vague notion about hallowing politics by religion through a State faith; and this idea he—if we rightly understand what he means—fancies he can work out by keeping the Church (that is, the clergy) always in a subordinate position to the State (that is, the people): an enterprise which, we suspect, would be found as difficult, if not as fallacious, in a Republic as it has ever proved under a Monarchy. It is unnecessary, however, to consider this point in detail, because it is clear that the tendency of the world everywhere is in a direction diametrically opposite to that advocated by Mazzini. Men at present seem more intent on divorcing the Church from the State than on making the union between them more intimate. It is also unnecessary to discuss the merits of Signor Mazzini's quarrel with the Moderates of the time of Carlo Alberto, seeing that the gist of the case—though touching different men and a later time—is set forth in the defence lately issued by him and reproduced in our pages. There is but one point to which we think it needful to call special attention, and that is as to Mazzini's personal courage and readiness to endure fatigue and incur risk for the cause he advocates. On this subject we fancy Mazzini has been grossly maligned. It is usual to allege that, though ever ready to engage others in plots and insurrections, he has always been careful to avoid danger to his own person. This charge, as it seems to us, is completely refuted by the details given in a note by the translator, on the authority of General Medici, at page 143, and which it is therefore worth while to reproduce *in extenso*. General Medici says:—

After the engagement of Custoza, at the end of which Charles Albert fell back on Milan, General Garibaldi, then at Bergamo with a small body of Lombard Republican volunteers (about 4000 altogether), believing that the King of Piedmont, who was still at the head of the army of 40,000 men, would defend the capital of Lombardy, as he had promised, to the utmost, conceived the bold project of pushing forward and marching towards Milan. His object was to harass the left flank of the Austrians in their pursuit of the Piedmontese army, and thus to come in aid of the future operations which the King's resistance at Milan might bring about.

In fact, on the morning of Aug. 3, 1848, Garibaldi, with his division, was just about to quit Bergamo, in order, by forced marches, to reach Monza, when we saw appear amongst us, rifle on shoulder, Mazzini, asking to join our ranks as a simple soldier of the legion I commanded, which was to form the vanguard of Garibaldi's division. A general acclamation saluted the great Italian, and the legion unanimously conferred it banners, which bore the device "God and the People," to his charge.

As soon as Mazzini's arrival was known at Bergamo the population ran to see him. They pressed around him; they begged him to speak. All who heard him must remember his discourse. He recommended raising barricades to defend the town in case of attack, whilst we should march on Milan; and he conjured them, whatever might happen, to love Italy always, and never to despair of her redemption. His words were received with enthusiasm, and the column left amid marks of the deepest sympathy. The march was very fatiguing; rain fell in torrents, we were drenched to the skin. Although accustomed to a life of study, and little fit for the violent exertion of forced marches, his constancy and serenity never forsook him for an instant; and, notwithstanding our counsels—for we feared for his physical strength—he would never stay behind nor leave the column. It happened even that, seeing one of our youngest volunteers clothed only in linen, and consequently with no protection against the rain and sudden cold he forced him to accept and wear his own cloak.

Arrived at Monza, we heard the fatal news of the capitulation of Milan and learned that a numerous body of Austrian cavalry had been sent against us, and was already, on the other side, at the gates of Monza.

Garibaldi, very inferior in forces, not wishing to expose his small body to utter and useless destruction, gave orders to fall back upon Como, and placed me with my column as rearguard, in order to cover the retreat.

For youthful volunteers, whose greatest wish was to fight, the order to retreat was a signal of discouragement, and was accompanied, during the first moments, with some disorder. Happily, this did not occur in my rearguard.

From Monza to Como, my column, always pursued by the enemy, and menaced with destruction at every moment by a very superior force, never wavered, but remained compact and united, always showing itself ready to repulse all attack; and kept the enemy in check to the last.

In this march—full of danger and difficulty—the strength of soul, intrepidity, and decision, which Mazzini possesses in such a high degree, never failed, and were the admiration of the bravest amongst us. His presence, his words, the example of his courage, animated our young soldiers, who were, besides, proud of partaking such dangers with him; and all decided, Mazzini amongst the first, in case of an engagement, to perish to the last man for the defence of the faith of which he had been the apostle, and for which he was ready to become the martyr. This resolute determination contributed much to maintain that order and that firm attitude which saved the rest of the division.

These few details are too honourable to the character of Mazzini to remain unknown. For us, who were witnesses of them, his conduct has been a proof that to the greatest qualities of the civilian he joins the courage and intrepidity of the soldier.

*Seven Years' Writing for Seven Days' Reading.* Part I. Second Edition. By WILLIAM ALFRED GIBBS. London: E. Moxon, Son, and Co.

Mr. Gibbs has produced a very strange volume of blank verse, and one which, strange or not, the public will have, since a second edition is called for. In the body of the book it is called "The Story of a Life," which story is divided into Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and already has a couple of substantial sequels. Clearly, there are four days more to come to make up the seven days' reading for the week, and already we scarcely see any "Life" left wherewith the author can make up his "Story." The deaths are very numerous, and all are painful and tragic. Hereditary insanity is the theme, and it may be supposed that the characters are punished by insanity and death for intermarriages in families. There are plenty of happy, homely people who would be frightened out of their wits at such an idea; and, if any reader should take the alarm, let him or her consult the nearest physician who can be found, and then listen to his laughter. Truly, too many cousin-marriages in a family are not desirable; but there is a notable instance in high circles in the present day of the impunity with which such matches may be risked. Mr. Gibbs has chosen a melancholy subject, indeed, and one which common-sense must reject. This is to be regretted, for he writes well, and must have been at much pains to attain to such skill in the handling of blank verse. He has many quali-

fications for writing stories in good poetry. The inner and the outer world are alike treated with keenness and beauty, and some passages are painfully startling or touching in the sweetness with which they describe and accept the miseries upon which the stories are based. Surely it is wrong to waste time and talent on such morbid fancies as hereditary insanity arising from an almost impossible cause. And the book is not half finished yet; and what new maladies—home-made—may not be looked for in Part the Second?

*Elements of Latin Syntax.* By W. H. HARRIS, B.A. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

This is another of the innumerable works of this class which are incessantly issuing from the press and which add little or nothing—either as respects learning, method, or clearness—to the earlier rudimentary Latin grammars. The very first proposition in these "Elements" will afford a fair measure of the precision of the author:—"Syntax," he tells the student, "is the arrangement of words in a sentence!"

*Essays and Addresses.* By DEAN ALFORD. London: Strahan and Co.

In this volume we have a collection of essays which have been already published in the periodicals. They are for the most part upon Church matters, and are therefore invested with a special interest at the present moment, when ecclesiastical topics have taken so large a hold of public attention. The author seems to be very catholic in spirit, and liberal in his views respecting Church questions, nor does he appear to think it would prove any great loss to the Protestant religion in this country were the Church of England to be disestablished—to "disendow" her suggests objections.

*The Painted Bird and the Painted Text.* By M. C. BUSHE. London: T. Nelson and Sons.

Here we have what is called a simple tale for little boys and girls, and there is no denying that the story is simple enough; but, instead of a touching portrait of life calculated to arouse the admiration and emulation of youth, it is only a sorry record of early disobedience consequent upon forgetting one of those illuminated texts of Scripture so difficult to read, and whose force is not likely to be augmented by too much emblazonry. Those well-meaning people who write tales for the young seem constantly to forget that noble and generous example is the right thing to set before children, and not pictures of delinquency followed by retribution. The one method is Christian, the other is sectarian; and how much evil to old and young that word expresses, goodness only knows!

*Fret Not, and other Poems.* By HENRY BATEMAN. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

In his preface—which is, by-the-way, a very bad specimen of that species of composition—Mr. Bateman informs us that the poem of "Fret Not" was written with the single object of planting "some green thoughts in hearts that are sad and arid." It may be that there are sorrowful people in this world who can draw comfort from the doctrines and consolations of the New Testament turned into very doubtful rhymes, and to such the author addresses himself with considerable assurance; but if all he has to say had been happily turned into plain church-going prose, it would have been all the better for the general reader. When Mr. Bateman is fairly warmed with his subject, and has got to the third canto, he rises no higher than the following dismal commonplace:—

The mysteries of sorrow and of care,  
Of ill-assorted juxtapositions of life;  
The mystery that loving hearts must bear,  
Old friendships shattered into doubt and strife;  
The mysteries of evil and of sin,  
Light in the roundabout deep gloom within.

Even as those lines appear, so in general are the tone and execution of all Mr. Bateman's poems from beginning to end.

MRS. STIRLING will read Shakspeare's "Tempest" on Friday evening, June 11, on which occasion the incidental music composed by Arne, Purcell, Linley, and Stevens, will be sung by Miss Edith Wynne and a choir of 400 voices. This will introduce "Where the bee sucks," "O bid your faithful Ariel fly," "Come unto these yellow sands," and "The cloud-capp'd towers." The whole will be under the direction of Mr. F. Kingsbury.

A NATIVE OF DELHI, in whose caste it was forbidden to have two wives, went over to Christianity in order, as he fancied, to be able to contract a second marriage. He did so; but his first wife, to his consternation, followed him, and he also discovered that bigamy was neither a Christian virtue nor a favourable recommendation to the notice of the law of the country. So to cure the difficulty he murdered both his wives, and now finds himself brought up by an inhuman code for having endeavoured to rectify a mistake.

MR. SUMNER AND PRESIDENT GRANT.—Senator Sumner called at the White House to see the President last week, but Mr. Dent, the chief usher, having carried up his card, returned with the remark that he would have to wait fifteen minutes. Mr. Sumner said he would not wait fifteen minutes for Napoleon, Victoria, or anyone else, and that when Mr. Grant wanted to see him he could send for him. With that he withdrew in a rage, and told a friend that the White House was nothing but a military camp.—*New York Herald*, May 17.

THE REPRESENTATION OF NOTTINGHAM.—A vacancy having occurred in the representation of this borough through the death of Sir Robert Clifton, the names of those mentioned as probable candidates are Mr. Bernal Osborne (who was defeated at the last election), Mr. Charles Seely (also unsuccessful at the last election), Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Milner Gibson, Mr. T. W. Evans, Mr. P. W. Claydon, and Mr. George Potter. It is hardly probable that any of the candidates will announce themselves until after Sir Robert's interment.

LETTER OF GARIBALDI.—General Garibaldi has sent the following letter, in reply to a number of addresses sent him from several towns of Italy on the recurrence of the anniversary of April 30:—"Caprera, May 23.—My dear Barili,—I beg you to make the subjoined rectification. My fellow-citizens do me more honour than I merit when they speak of the combat of April 30 at Rome. I was in fact present on that glorious day, but he who directed that admirable defence was the illustrious veteran of Italian liberty, General Avezzano, then Minister of War; I myself was only a subaltern. The majestic figure of our old and valiant chief was to be seen in every place where the peril was greatest, and certainly the principal credit of the victory is due to him.—Ever yours, G. GARIBALDI.

FREE CHRISTIAN UNION.—A public devotional service in connection with a newly-formed "Free Christian Union" was held in Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday night. The design of the association is "to illustrate the spirit of unsectarian Christianity, to furnish the means of undogmatic religious instruction, and to incorporate the discoveries of learning and science in the religious view of the world." The Rev. Athanasius Coquerel, the Rev. James Martineau, the Rev. W. Milal, and the Rev. C. Kegan Paul conducted the service. The prayers were taken from the Liturgy of the Church of England, but were "adapted" to the purposes of the meeting. In the sermon, Mr. Coquerel pointed out that the great beauty of Christianity consisted in its universality, and when that principle was lost sight of its individuality was gone. The preacher further said that it was an error to suppose that the knowledge of God could be derived from any one book; God had written his word in science and in humanity, for science was a canon which could never be closed. A public meeting of the members and friends of the new society was held on Wednesday evening.

GREAT RIOT IN WALES.—A terrible riot, in which four persons were killed, and several others maimed and wounded, took place at Mold, Flintshire, on Wednesday evening. The occasion of the disturbance was the attempted rescue of two prisoners whilst being conveyed to gaol. A body of colliers assembled and attacked the police who escorted the prisoners with volleys of stones. The Riot Act was read, and a detachment of the 4th Foot (King's Own), under Captain Blake, called out. Stones were showered upon the soldiers and police; and the mob, evidently to prevent further assistance arriving, proceeded to the telegraph office, which they completely demolished. They next made their way to the railway station, and smashed the windows and otherwise damaged a train of carriages which was drawn up at the platform. So alarming did the state of affairs become, and so severely were the soldiers and police handled by the mob, that orders were given to the military to fire. A volley discharged amongst the rioters laid several of them low; two were killed, two others died shortly after of their wounds, and many more were injured. Several of the soldiers and police were much hurt by blows from bludgeons and by stones. After a struggle the prisoners were secured, and safely lodged in gaol. A detachment of one hundred soldiers was telegraphed for from Chester.



## ALPINE SMUGGLERS.

It is seldom that we read any tales of smuggling in these days. The times of Will Watch and all the other heroes of the penny romances, where they were represented as fine fellows, with a laudable ambition to defraud the revenue, are superseded, and only an occasional police case, where a sailor has concealed a few pounds of tobacco, or a couple of slinking long-shore harpies have towed a cask of spirits at the stern of a boat, make an occasional record in the newspaper. In the German Alps, however, a very different kind of smuggling still exists, or lasted until very recently; and nothing but an adjustment of the frontier duties would be likely to put an end to the dangerous ventures, one of which is depicted in our Engraving. Just fancy a journey with a bale of goods on the peaks and mountain pathways, where only a chamois could be expected to hold its own, and the difficulties will be understood.

It is certain that before long a better approximation of the tariff will render such an illustration as this only a record of a past time, and that the bold mountaineers will find better employment than in such a desperate risk as carrying contraband goods over the borders.

## "A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE."

THE picture contributed by M. Schlosser to the Paris Fine-Art Exhibition is one of those representative scenes which attract us by their evident reality. It is a memento of a phase of life among the rural population of the Black Forest, and is at once picturesque and simple, recalling, as it does, not only the experience of the artist, but the adventures of the traveller, who has observed the primitive customs of that attractive region. Not only in the

costumes and the admirable grouping of the figures has M. Schlosser succeeded in making a lifelike picture. The scene represents a great occasion: it is not every day that even that substantial-booted patriarch treats his family at a tavern, and still less frequently that the event is crowned by a bottle of sparkling wine. It is his birthday, no doubt, and very expertly does he stimulate the interest of that pleasant group by the calm and yet consciously artistic manner in which he explodes the cork. The operation is watched with a comical expectation very humorously depicted in every face, and even the casual customers, who have no direct interest in the matter, are attracted by the solemn and imposing ceremony. The irrepressible lad, whose sense of awe is overcome by the possession of a big glass all to himself, is probably the old man's pet; there is a confident impudence in his eye as he marches forward not altogether in keeping with the sub-



SMUGGLERS DESCENDING AN ALPINE PASS.

dued respect that should accompany so grave an anniversary; but he will escape rebuke amidst the general health-drinking that will allow the creamy libation; and there are symptoms, considering the sizes of the glasses and the convenient proximity of the landlord, that the "bottle of champagne" will be repeated.

## CEREMONY AT THE SHRINE OF ST. FORT, BORDEAUX.

THERE is a singular custom which is still observed in the old town of Bordeaux at this time of the year, and our Engraving, which is taken from a sketch made on the spot, represents the ceremony. In the Faubourg St. Seurin, the accustomed visitor to the capital of wine, snuff, and sugar will remember a church of the same name, and in this church is the shrine of a saint celebrated in the annals of the district. Now, to be celebrated in such an ancient locality as the great industrial centre on the banks of the Garonne, is to occupy a large niche in history. Even in the time of Strabo, who mentions it in his geography, it was the chief trading-place of the Iocsi, who were also called the Ubisci—a Celtic nation which had settled within the limits

assigned to the Aquitani. In the subdivision of the Gallic provinces, about the middle of the fourth century, this town, which had been of reputation in the first years of the Christian era, was made the capital of Aquitania Secunda; and Ausonius, who was a native of the place, celebrates its praises in his *Clara Urbes*—speaking of its mild climate; its wood-crowned heights; its noble stream, covered at high tide with a fleet of ships; its regular streets, and lofty towers. Until recently, the remains of these ancient buildings were numerous; and the circuit of the arena of the amphitheatre could till lately be traced in the Faubourg Seurin, where its solid walls had been made the foundation of a number of mean houses resting on them, in consequence of the site having been sold during the Revolution as national property. The modern city is, however, finer and more extensive than the ancient; and, though most of its oldest historical relics have disappeared, it has magnificent buildings—inferior, perhaps, to none in Europe, and worthy of its former reputation. We are not including the Church of St. Seurin among them, for it is a plain edifice enough; but in this church is the shrine of Saint Fort, whose festival occurs in the month of May, when a fair takes place in his honour. The shrine is held in great veneration and one

curious custom is still religiously observed by a great many of the mothers who desire their children to obtain benefits of the saint whose name seems to have suggested the observance represented in our Illustration. The children make a kind of pilgrimage or are carried to the tomb of the saint, over which they are passed by their mothers or nurses, under the impression that they will thereby receive health and strength. Many of the old Bordelais chronicles refer to this custom, which is one of the few remaining antiquities of the historical city.

## THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE annual accounts of the British Museum show that the vote required this Session is £113,203, an increase of £13,823 over last year's vote, occasioned chiefly by the expenditure of £12,000 for the extension of the Elgin Gallery. The number of visitors to the general collections in 1868 was 461,710; it has been increasing for three years, and was last year nearly 100,000 more than in 1865. This number does not include 103,529 visits to the reading-room, an average of 353 readers a day; the average of books consulted by each was more than twelve a day. More than 38,000 distinct





"A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE."—(FROM THE PICTURE BY M. SCHLESSER, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)

works were added to the library in 1868; 681 were presented, 7576 were acquired by English and 1111 by international copyright, and 28,840 by purchase. Including all articles received, pieces of music, playbills, &c., the total becomes 81,507. Among the acquisitions are a number of specimens of elegant binding of mediæval times bequeathed to the Museum by the late Mr. Felix Slade, F.S.A.: it is proposed to exhibit some of the most beautiful specimens in one of the select cases in the King's Library. There was purchased in the year a select collection of Japanese books, formed by the late Dr. von Siebold, author of the great work on Japan entitled "Nippon." The collection contains specimens of every class of literature—cyclopædia, histories, law books, political pamphlets, maps, novels, plays, poetry, dictionaries of European languages, works on science, on antiquities, on female costume, on cookery, on carpentry, and on dancing. The reports show very large additions in every department of the Museum. Among them may be noted Mr. Slade's bequest to the nation of a large collection of glass and other antiquities. Collected, in the first instance, with a view to artistic beauty alone, the series has been since gradually enriched with historical specimens, as well as with curiosities of manufacture, so as to illustrate the history of glass in all its branches. By this acquisition the series of ancient and recent glass in the British Museum has probably become more extensive as well as instructive than any other public collection of the kind. The bequest included also an extensive collection of engravings and a small series of carvings in ivory and metal-work from Japan, full of the humour and quaintness which characterise the art of

that country. The Christy Collection is temporarily deposited at 103, Victoria-street, where it may be seen on Fridays. There have been 553 visitors. A purchase has been made of 352 manuscripts, chiefly Persian and Arabic, collected in India by the late Colonel G. W. Hamilton, commissioner of Delhi. They contain a rich store of new matter bearing on Eastern, especially Indian, history, as well as on Arab and Persian literature. The Secretary of State for India has presented 339 volumes, handsomely written on vellum, captured at Magdala, where they had been brought together by King Theodore as an endowment for a proposed church. This unequalled collection embraces the whole range of Ethiopic literature. The Hawkins collection of between 7000 and 8000 satirical prints and caricatures, dating from the beginning of the reign of James I. and reaching to that of our present Sovereign, should not be unnoticed; nor the seventy-one volumes collected by the late Francis Place, of Westminster, for the history of political and trades unions, mechanics' institutes, Westminster elections, and the general social condition of England. There were 35,552 additions to the natural history departments, 1247 to the department of coins and medals, and large numbers throughout the departments.

#### AN UNHEALTHY CITY.

THE excessively high death-rate which has prevailed in Glasgow since the beginning of the present year gives exceptional importance to the report which, in his capacity of medical officer of health to the city, Dr. Gairdner has presented to the sanitary

authorities. The deaths in Glasgow during the first three months show an increase of nearly 31 per cent over those of the first quarter of 1868. The following are the general conclusions at which Dr. Gairdner has arrived:—1. That the increased mortality was due chiefly to causes acting on the respiratory organs, in the form of acute or febrile disease. 2. That no class or section of the population was exempt from the general unhealthiness. 3. That it was not due, in any strict sense of the word, to local or removable causes. 4. That zymotic diseases had no specially characteristic share in causing the augmented mortality. 5. That, *ceteris paribus*, the ill-protected, ill-housed, and generally least comfortable classes suffered most severely. 6. That in the northern and western divisions of the city the mortality was proportionately much higher than in the other parts of it. Dr. Gairdner remarks that most of the important cities of Scotland exhibited an increased death-rate in March, "probably due, in some degree, though with modifications, to the same causes that operated in Glasgow;" but that in none of these places, except Greenock, was there any approach to the excessively sudden and general increase of mortality observed in Glasgow, while in Aberdeen and Perth scarcely any trace of such increase is to be found. The Registrar-General of Scotland has attributed the unhealthiness of Glasgow in March last to the influence of "northerly and easterly winds;" and Dr. Gairdner comes to a similar conclusion, but with an important qualification. "Seeing," he says, "that the type of disease which produced the mortality was so distinctly respiratory, it is difficult to avoid suspecting that the north and north-east winds may, after all, have



CEREMONY ON THE FESTIVAL OF ST. FORT, IN THE CHURCH OF ST. SEURIN, BORDEAUX.



had something to do with the result; not, however, directly by their meteorological influence, but by their carrying an air loaded with noxious vapours and smoke into the northern and western districts of the city." Assuming the correctness of this conclusion, it is difficult to understand how, in any strict sense, the late unhealthiness can be said not to have arisen from "removable causes." Is there no smoke-consumption Act in Glasgow? As Dr. Gairdner points out, the liability of a large town to sudden and excessive augmentations of the death-rate will generally be found in the permanent causes of unhealthiness which predispose the population to any casual malady that may spring up amongst them.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE announcement of such a rare thing as a new opera attracted a very large audience to Covent Garden last Saturday, when Cagnoni's "Don Bucefalo" was brought out—obviously with the view of exhibiting the new buffo, Signor Bottero, in a favourite part. But the prospect of hearing an unknown work did not seem to excite much interest. Italy, since she has occupied herself with practical politics, has done very little in the way of operatic production. Whether it be that the energy of the Italians has during the last twenty or thirty years been generally diverted by military and political events from the objects to which it used formerly to be applied, or for whatever other reason, certain it is that Italy, once the mother of all that is operatic, has lately ceased to give us either works or singers. Rossini was followed by Donizetti and Bellini; Donizetti and Bellini by Verdi; and now, Verdi has no successor. The two-act opera, by Signor Cagnoni, called "Don Bucefalo," is founded on a subject which is neither novel nor interesting. Don Bucefalo, hearing a band of rustics sing a chorus, is much struck by the beauty of the voices, some of which are so exquisite that he resolves to engage their owners for an opera he is about to compose. One of the singers, Rosa by name, has not only a very lovely voice, but is also possessed of great personal charms. Don Bucefalo makes love to her and endeavours to teach her to sing at the same time. This is apparently a bad system, for she pays but little attention to his instruction; though, being blessed with much natural talent, she gets on better than the master, under the circumstances, had any right to expect. The singing lesson is made the subject of a tolerably ingenious duet (sung by Signor Bottero, in the character of Don Bucefalo, and Mdlle. Sinico in that of Rosa), which, on the arrival of Marco (Signor Tagliafico), becomes a trio. Of Marco, all we need say is that he is one of Rosa's too numerous lovers; for Rosa has a husband, Carlino (represented by Signor Corsi), who is away on a journey, but returns when he is least expected and least wanted. Don Bucefalo makes the husband's sudden reappearance a pretext for hiding in a cupboard, and his discovery in this place of concealment is the grand climax of the drama. Some novel details, however, are introduced in the second act, where Don Bucefalo is exhibited working at his opera. He is writing the prima donna's part, which, to judge by the fragments he favours us with from time to time, is not remarkable for originality. But he soon abandons the music-paper, and goes to the piano in search of ideas, which he judiciously looks for in the works of other composers. However, an idea of his own, which suddenly occurs to him, is the unfounded one that, though actually a composer, he might, if he had wished, have been a brilliant pianist. Don Bucefalo aspires to the highest honours, and, having mastered all the difficulties of the instrument, sighs for a more extended keyboard on which fresh victories might be gained. Having confided these aspirations to the audience by means of expressive pantomime, he proceeds in the most deliberate manner to perform a long fantasia; and, having finished his show-piece, commences a series of reminiscences from popular operas, in which the tail of one air is, by a simple and familiar process, joined on to the head of another. After the piano, Don Bucefalo displays his powers on the violin, and even attacks wind instruments. Signor Bottero must be allowed to possess a certain dexterity as an executant; but, even if he could play every instrument in the orchestra, and play it well, it would be absurd to make his performances the basis of a two-act opera. "Bucefalo" was preceded by the first act of "Norma," in which the only Norma of the present day, Mdlle. Titiens, sustained the part of the heroine with all her wonted ability. Bellini's opera was conducted by Signor Arditì; Cagnoni's by Signor Li Calsi. The fine orchestra of the Royal Italian Opera has now at least three masters, when one would be enough—two more than enough. Signor Arditì, one of the finest conductors of the day, is frequently replaced by Signor Li Calsi; and Signor Arditì himself—in accordance with an unwise precedent—leaves his post during the performance of ballet music.

The third of the Crystal Palace Summer Concerts drew a large audience. Madame Monbelli repeated her triumph of the previous concert, and sang "Come per me sereno," "La dove prende" (with M. Napoleon Verger), and "Dunq' io son" (with Signor Gassier). Mdlle. Ricci also appeared, and sang with marked success "Ah! fors' e lui." Madame Norman-Neruda played a violin solo on airs from "Der Freischütz," and was recalled with acclamation. Mdlle. Valesca von Facius sang an air from Handel's "Alcina" with much taste. Signor Uri, who has a fine tenor voice, used it well in Verdi's "Quando le sere" and Flotow's "M'appari." Signor Bulterini could probably not have given "La mia Letizia" better had he tried ever so; M. Napoleon Verger was heard to advantage in "Di Provenza;" and Signor Gassier, always welcome, gained much applause by his delivery of "Largo al factotum." The Crystal Palace choir gave Silcher's "Farewell," and the orchestra played the overtures to "La Gazza Ladra" and "Oberon."

On Monday a series of operatic performances was commenced in the concert-room of the Crystal Palace, transformed for those entertainments into a theatre. "La Sonnambula," in English, with spoken dialogue in lieu of recitative, was the work represented. The principal singers were Miss Blanche Cole (Amina), Mr. George Perren (Elvino), and Mr. Temple (Count Rodolfo).

### NEW MUSIC.

Weber's Last Waltz. Arranged for the Pianoforte by G. F. West. (Cocks and Co.) "Weber's Last Waltz," says a spirited contemporary, "is one of those inspirations of genius of which the ear never tires. Of all waltzes it is the most beautiful. It would, indeed, be a libel to call it a waltz," &c. It is no libel to call a waltz a waltz, only it is a mistake to suppose that "Weber's Last Waltz" was composed by Weber. It was composed by Reissiger. Those who do not like to call a waltz a waltz should imitate the French, who, considering with justice that the melody in question is not suited to dancing purposes, call it "Weber's Last Thought." Mr. West's arrangement of Reissiger's "Weber's Last Waltz" is simple and becoming.

Skating. "Illustration." Composed for the Pianoforte by Berthold Tours. (Metzler and Co.) A series of sliding scales put together with a certain regard for melody, so as to suggest "skating." Melodies may doubtless suggest the same thing without suggesting one another; for Mr. Berthold Tours's "Skating" does not remind us, otherwise than by the name, of Meyerbeer's skating music in the "Prophète." What Meyerbeer's skating music chiefly reminds us of is the baritone's air in Rossini's "Siege of Corinth" (scene of the Blessing of the Dargers), from which the first motive of the "Pas des Patineurs" is obviously borrowed.

A CHIMNEY-SWEEPER in DUNDEE, named Mitchell, was on the roof of a house, one of the chimneys of which he, with his brother, who was inside the house, was to cleanse. It seems that there was a communication between the chimney to be swept and another, in the fireplace of which there was a fire burning; and while Mitchell was at the top a flame burst forth and set his clothes on fire. The ladder by which he had ascended having been removed, no one for some time could get to his assistance; he could not put out the fire himself, and before help could be rendered he was so frightfully burnt that he died a short time afterwards.

### METROPOLITAN HORSE SHOW.

THE horse show was opened last Saturday, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, with a very numerous and fashionable attendance. All the balconies and seats were crowded, and a large number of noblemen and members of Parliament were present. The judges this year were—for hunters, thoroughbred horses, and hacks, the Earl of Macclesfield, Viscount Combermere, and Captain Percy Williams; and for the other classes, Colonel Kingscote, M.P., and Captain Bastard. The judges, with the directors of the Hall Company, entered the ring soon after ten o'clock; but the judging was rather slow, as all the animals in turn were most carefully and critically examined. After taking nearly two hours to consider, the following awards were made:—

Class 1. Hunters, weight-carriers, equal to not less than 15 stone.—First prize of £80 to No. 6, Mr. David McIntosh, Havering Park, Romford, Essex, for his St. Clare, bay gelding, 16 hands 2 in. high, eight years; second prize of £40 to No. 4, Mr. T. W. Potter, of East-court, Cheltenham, for his 16 hands 2 in. five-year-old chestnut Harkaway, bred by Carson, of Carson Dam, Ireland; third prize to No. 22, Mr. J. Bredon, of Liverpool, for his 15 hands 3 in. and six years bay gelding Kildare, bred by C. Jordan, Drogheda.

Class 2. Hunters, without condition as to weight. First prize, £50; second, £25; third, £15. In this class, for which there were forty-four entries, the specimens generally were not of that high order of merit which distinguished the first class, but the selected eight for final competition exhibited a marked superiority over the rest. The awards were—First prize to No. 35, Major Quentin, for his 16 hands, six years, bay gelding Placid; second prize to No. 53, Captain F. Barlow, of Heskett, Wood-bridge, for his 15 hands 3 in., aged eight years, Topstall, thoroughbred; and third prize to No. 60, Mr. Henry Sanders, of Brampton-hill, Northampton, for his 15 hands 3 in. and five-year-old Playmate.

Class 3.—For hunters, without condition as to weight, and not exceeding 15 hands 2 in. high, for which a first prize of £40 and a second prize of £20 were given, comprised but sixteen entries.—The first prize was awarded to No. 76, Mr. J. Stanley Mott, of Birmingham, for his 15 hands, nine years, bay Mischief; and No. 78, to Messrs. E. O. A. Stamford, Steyning, Sussex, for his 15 hands 2 in. chestnut, Spanton.

Class 4. Hunters, four years old. First prize, £50; second, £20.—First prize to No. 95, Mr. J. Conor, of Burgby Sands, Carlisle, for his 16 hands four-year-old brown hunter Commissioner; second to Mr. Leonard Lywood, master of the East-Sussex Fox-hounds, The Friars, Battle, for his 15 hands 2 in. four-year-old Handcuff.

At this point the judges went on to decide on the merits of the thoroughbred stallions in class 13, for the best of which were offered as a prize the Agricultural Hall gold medal and £50. This class excited considerable attention, and certainly bore out the description that it was one of the finest collections of entire horses that could be well seen. First prize to No. 317, Mr. George Holmes, of Bar House, Beverley, Yorkshire, for his 16 hands, six years, Whitley by Barnton, brother to Voltigeur.

Class 14.—Stallions, not less than 15 hands high. First prize, the Agricultural Hall medal and £30; second, the Agricultural Hall medal and £15.—First prize to Mr. John Abell for his 15 hands 2 in. five-year-old Young Phenomenon; second to No. 330, Mr. Charles Beart, Downham Market, for his red roan, 15 hands 2 in. six-year-old Ambition.

Class 15. Stallions, under 15 hands high. First prize, the Agricultural Hall medal and £15; second, the Agricultural Hall medal.—First prize to Lady Ann Speirs, of Eton-place, for her Ladyship's splendid Arab, 14 hands 3 in. high, seven years old, bay and black legs, Farhan (Joyous). The price of this very beautiful horse is fixed by Lady Ann Speirs at 1000gs. Second prize to No. 377, Mr. Adrian E. Hope, of Cavendish-square; another beautiful Arab, purchased by owner from his Excellency Samid Pacha, and said to be a descendant from a filly once borrowed by the Prophet Mahomet from an old woman in his tribe, and called Pacha—black, 14 hands 2 in. high, and aged.

Class 16. Stallions not exceeding 13 hands high. Prize, Agricultural Hall medal and £10.—First prize to No. 344, Colonel Astley, Elsham Hall, Brigg, for his dun, 12 hands high, five years old, Tradesman, price 500gs.

Having completed the judging in the thoroughbreds, the judges returned to the point where they had left off, commencing with

Class 5. Riding Horses (fine action and quality essential) of any height exceeding 15 hands 2 in. high: first prize, £20; second, £10; third, £5.—First prize to 126, Mr. Harvey Farquhar, for his bay gelding, 16 hands high, eight years old, Champagne Charlie, the price of which is fixed at 250gs. Second prize to 117, Mr. Robert Campbell, Army and Navy Club, for his 15 hands 3 in. high chestnut, The Peer. Third prize to 118, Captain Thomas Hargreaves, Abford Hall, Reading, for his 15 hands 3 in. high, and five years old, bay gelding, Oxford.

Class 6. Cover Hacks and Roadsters, weight carriers, not exceeding 15 hands 2 in. high: first prize, £10; second, £5; third, £2.—First prize to 144, 15 hands 2 in., five years, for Polly Brown, Mr. Charles Beart, Downham Market, Norfolk; second prize to Mr. Thomas Percival Wansford, for his 15 hands 2 in. high, seven years, Card Sharper.

Class 7. Park Hacks and Ladies Horses (not exceeding 15 hands 2 in. high): first prize, £20; second, £10; third, £5.—First prize to Mr. George David Badham, of Fulmer Tye, Sudbury, for his 15 hands 1 in., four years, Eclipse; second prize to 178, Mr. G. J. Tanton, Westminster Bridge-road, for his 15 hands 2 in., aged, chestnut stallion, Joe Lovell; third prize to 175, Mr. George Holmes, Bar House, Beverley, Yorkshire, for his 15 hands 2 in., five years, black-brown Charley Boy.

Class 9. Park Hacks and Ladies Horses (not exceeding 15 hands 1 in. high): first prize, £20; second, £10; third, £5.—First prize to 214, Mr. H. W. Cholmley, Billington York, for his 15 hands 1 in., eight years, chestnut, Belinda; second prize to 198, Mr. G. M. Sexton, for his 14 hands, six years, Cream; third prize to Mr. M. N. Williams, Tredna, Cornwall, for his 15 hands, five years, brown filly, Beeswing.

Class 10. Park cobs, high-steppers (not exceeding 14 hands high): first prize, £20; second, £10; third, £5.—First prize to No. 259, Mr. N. Wilson, High Holborn, for his fast trotter Neddy; second to No. 256, Mr. Lionel Lawson, Brook-street, Hanover-square, for his 13 hands 3 in. seven-year-old chestnut, Beauty; third to No. 243, Captain T. Hargreaves, Reading, for his 13 hands 3 in. seven-year-old brown cob, Hero. This class was so equal that it not only received the commendation of the judges generally, but they awarded a fourth prize of £4 to No. 236, Mr. R. Glynes, Ilford, Essex, for his 13 hands 2 in. ten-year-old dark brown mare, Polly.

This class terminated the awards for the day, and the judging was not concluded till seven o'clock.

It will be remarked, probably, as a singular circumstance that the winners of two out of the three prizes in the first class are Irish horses. The superiority, however, of St. Clare was so manifest that when the last-selected eight for the final competition in the class were ranged together there appeared but slight difference of opinion as to which animal would carry off the first prize; and when the blue ribbon was awarded to St. Clare there was a great buzz of approbation at the decision of the judges throughout the company assembled in the hall. St. Clare is described as a good hunter, well known with the Essex hounds, has been hunted in Yorkshire, and is winner of several first prizes. The value set upon this fine specimen of the class is 500gs.

There was no flagging in the attendance on Monday at the Agricultural Hall in order to see the remainder of the classes judged and the usual vivacious "scenes in the circle," or rather the oval. The harness horses under 15 hands 2 in. were first brought in, and Mr. James Hornsby's Sambo, a black brown, beat Mr. R. Campbell's chestnut The Peer for first place, while Mr. C. Baker's Moggy was commended. Thirty-two ponies were entered in class 11, "not exceeding 14 hands in single harness," and Mr. Lionel Lawson's Beauty, which was second in class 10 on Saturday for "Park Cobs, High Steppers," was placed first. It appears, however, that Mr. Newton Wilson's horse, which obtained the first prize on Saturday in class 10, was not properly entered, so that Mr. Lawson's horse obtains the honours of a "double first" as a park cob and a pony in single harness not exceeding 14 hands. Frank, a dun roan, and Miss E. Hunt's Black Diamond, a grey, were next in order; and Mr. Groucock's Champagne Charlie, which won at the Leicester Royal, was highly commended. Another of this gentleman's was commended, and so was Colonel the Hon. Charles Hay's Wonder. Ponies not exceeding 13 hands formed class 12; and here Mr. T. Howdle, who had been second in the previous class with Frank, was first with Tommy, which also took the "fuzzes" capitally. The protest against Whitley is not decided, and (as the judges did not place a second) if the examination is unfavourable, either Dalesman, Broomielaw, or Ivanhoff will be selected for the £50 from the highly-commended in the thoroughbred class.

The jumping caused a great deal of amusement, and nothing seemed to delight the galleries more than the antics of a boy on a white pony, who made a point of tumbling off or always landing on his pony's withers. By way of changing the performance he got off, and the white negotiated the fences on his own account, which pleased the public still more. The trotting of a little

brown pony, which "looked like a mouse" by the side of the other horses in the match carts, and gave them the go-by on sufferance, also "increased the public stock of harmless merriment." The scene in the gallery was perhaps more attractive than that in the arena, for there velocipedes were in competition, to the great amusement, and not unfrequently to the disturbance, of the visitors. In the carriage compartment Mr. Aysford, of Fulham, exhibits some conveniently-contrived and tastefully-constructed vehicles; but the entries in this department are not many.

### ARRIVAL OF MR. MOTLEY.

MR. MOTLEY, the newly-appointed United States Minister to the English Court, arrived at Liverpool last Saturday night in the Cuba. His Excellency was received by the American Consul.

At a quarter past ten on Monday morning Mr. Motley received, at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, addresses from the Liverpool and American Chambers of Commerce. Both bodies were well represented by leading members. Mr. Motley received a cordial welcome on his entrance. Mr. Dudley, the American Consul, introduced the president of the American Chamber of Commerce, who briefly welcomed the American Minister, and called upon the secretary to read the address. This address warmly congratulated Mr. Motley on his appointment, and expresses an earnest desire for the maintenance of friendly relations.

Mr. Motley, in reply, expressed his hearty thanks for the welcome accorded to him. He assured the chamber that it was the most earnest hope and wish of the President and the people of the United States to cultivate faithful and friendly relations between the two countries. The advancement of civilisation was dependent upon the maintenance of peace between all nations, but specially between England and America, whose common blood and general interests in the spread of commerce and the arts rendered it particularly incumbent upon them to maintain a spirit of concord. He assured the chamber that his most strenuous efforts should be devoted to the maintenance of kindly relations between the two countries, founded on reason, justice, and honour, and those principles which were alike necessary for conducting the affairs of nations and individuals. He concluded by thanking the chamber, on behalf of his Government, and also personally, for their proffered assistance.

The American Consul then introduced the president of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, who expressed an earnest desire for peace, and complimented Mr. Motley on his high literary attainments. The secretary of the chamber then read an address, in which allusion was made to the deep interest felt by the chamber in the prosperity of the United States and the maintenance of cordial relations between the two Governments. Further hopes were also expressed that wisdom, moderation, and justice might animate both sides, and that all questions might be solved to the honour and interest of both nations. The address also alluded to the removal of the last vestige of England's protective policy, and expressed a hope that Mr. Motley would be the means of bringing about reciprocal free trade in America.

Mr. Motley thanked the chamber for the cordial language of welcome, and expressed pleasure at the friendship evinced. He said they did him no more than justice in supposing that he will do his utmost to promote a good understanding between two nations which are bound by the closest ties ever known in history. The best and highest purposes of the two Governments should be to perpetuate a faithful friendship. The American President and people were animated now and always with an earnest hope and desire for the maintenance of sincere and amicable relations, founded upon a basis of entire justice and dispassionate regard for the honour and interest of each other. He professed an earnest desire for the extension of commerce, but could not go beyond his functions, fiscal arrangements in America being in the hands of Congress. Mr. Motley again returned thanks for the cordial welcome he had received; and, after a few personal introductions, withdrew and left for London, where he arrived in the evening.

### THE COLLECTION OF THE INCOME TAX.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer has addressed the following letter to the Times:—

Sir,—I find that some remarks of mine in the debate on the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill have—doubtless from my own fault—been very generally misunderstood. I have been accused of denying that five quarters of income tax will be paid in the current financial year, and using sophistry to conceal a palpable fact. I shall therefore feel much obliged to you if you will allow me to state what I meant to say, as the subject is of very great importance.

Mr. Hunt accused me of proposing to collect the income tax "in a manner excessively burdensome to the taxpayer." In support of this, he said that those who come under Schedules A, B, D of the income tax would pay five quarters in the year. This is true; but I argued that it could not be considered "excessively burdensome" to the taxpayer, because wherever four quarterly payments are made you may, by adding a single day to the year, which is no practical increase of burden, make out that five quarters are paid within the year. Indeed, if a man paid the last quarter of his income tax on April 20, 1868, and on April 19, 1869, which may very well happen, he would under the present system pay literally, and not merely substantially, five quarters in a year. If it is a hardship, that hardship exists under the present plan; if it is no hardship, it is no charge against me.

The proper way to look at the case is to leave out of the question the payment in April, 1869, which is for a past year, and must be made under either system, the old or the new, and compare them from that date. Suppose a man has £20 income tax to pay. On the old system he will pay £10 in October, 1869; £5 in January, 1870; £5 in April, 1870: total, £20. On the new system he will pay £20 in January, 1870. Compare the two.

By the new plan he gains the use of £10 from October to January, and loses the use of £5 from January to April; and so he gains the use of, or interest on, £5—that is, one quarter's income tax—for three months.

How, then, can it be truly said that the new plan is more burdensome to the taxpayer than the old? On the contrary, it is evidently a relief, in spite of the payment of five quarters of income tax in the year; and there is no way of reconciling this apparent contradiction except the one above suggested.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT LOWE.

11, Downing-street, Whitehall, May 31.

A ROYAL FREEMASON.—An unusually brilliant meeting of Freemasons was held in the Great Hall at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday night, to hear an announcement from the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, that the Prince of Wales had become a member of the order, having been made a Mason by the King of Sweden. The Grand Master added that the Prince was greatly disappointed at not being able to attend the Grand Lodge held that night; but his engagements rendered it impossible, as the day was set apart for the celebration of the Queen's birthday. It will be proposed at the next Grand Lodge, in conformity with ancient usage, that the rank of Past Grand Master be conferred on his Royal Highness. The Grand Master's announcement was received with great enthusiasm by the brethren.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—THE NEW LECTURE THEATRE.—A trial of the acoustic properties of the new lecture theatre in the South Kensington Museum took place on Wednesday night. Shortly after the doors were opened the theatre was filled to its utmost capacity and somewhat beyond it, for several persons had to remain standing during the trial, which principally consisted on this occasion of a vocal performance, conducted by Mr. Arthur Sullivan, in which Mr. Cummings and Miss Edith Wynne took the chief parts. The theatre is capable of affording convenient accommodation to between 400 and 500 persons. From what may be called on stage the seats rise with a steep gradient—the highest row of seats being on a level with the base of the arch which spans the hemicycle over the stage. On each side there is an open colonnade, which is at present partly covered by the copies from the cartoons of Raphael. The theatre is well lighted beneath the ceiling from a square of gas tubing, and the heated air is carried off by means of ventilators in the glass roof. The theatre, of course, is not intended for concerts, but for lectures, and the few words in which Mr. Cole explained the main purpose of the building were distinctly audible at the furthest end of the hall. It is just what a lecture hall should be—plain, yet graceful, with easy ingress and egress, excellent for hearing and seeing, well ventilated, well lighted, airy, and spacious. It was designed by the late Captain Fowke, the details having been carried out by Colonel Scott. Sir C. Wheatstone, Sir Michael Costa, Professor Tyndall, Mr. Bowley, Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, and Captain Donnelly, R.E., have been requested by the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education to report on the acoustic properties of the new theatre; and, from the experience of Wednesday night, it may be safely anticipated their report will be favourable. In addition to the songs and glees, there were part-songs and choruses, which were heard with perfect distinctness in their lowest modulation.



**HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.** — Mishaps. For curing accidental hurts the Ointment surpasses every liniment, lotion, or embrocation. It immediately soothes the irritated nerves, prevents the blood unduly flowing to the seat of injury, thus fully guarding against inflammation and the formation of abscesses.



